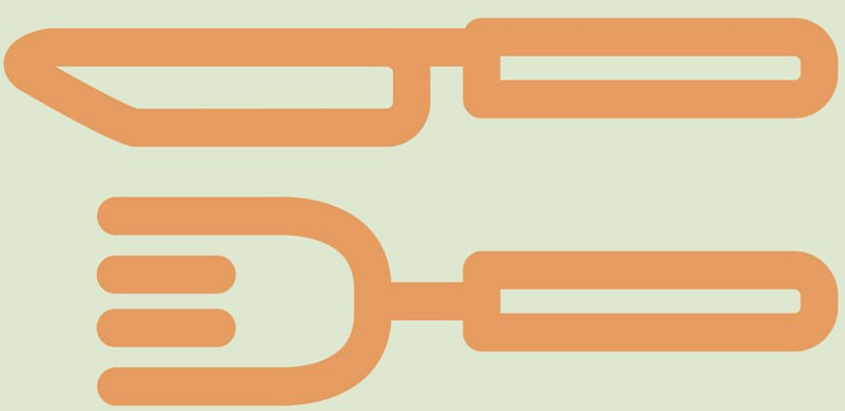
COOK OF THE MERCENARY CORP

VOLUME 1 - ME AND THE FEUDAL LORD



Cook of the Mercenary Corp

Volume 1 - Me and the Feudal Lord

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(Author's note: From here on the stories will come out in parts of 1,2,3)

'Time flies' is a great phrase.

Wrestling with everything in a daze, time is a passing unnoticed.

No matter if it's my job or my interests.

It's Shuri.

It's already been half a year since everyone ate Oden.

A full year had flowed by by the time I had realised.

I'm also 21. Hahaha, I grew older.

Regardless, I am still a cook in Ganglabe-san's mercenary corp.

Somehow because we took in assistants, there are currently four people around me.

The mercenary corp had also grown in size this year, with already around a thousand people.

"Ganglabe-san. Facing this amount of people with four people is pretty tough"

"But that's why we made that huge portable stove and cauldron"

"Compared to that development, the consumption of beef is severe so restock it please"

"Got it. I'll warn Riru properly"

It appears he was able to understand.

Now then, Ganglabe-san's mercenary corp. It's become famous with the public.

At any rate there are mountain-loads of feudal lords who scheme and want to include these 'invincible' elite troops into their own faction.

If my memory serves me correctly, we haven't lost once this year. It seems like

this can’t be achieved normally.

“Cougar-san, you also got a secret invitation right”

“Pretty much. I’ve become pretty famous too”

“Wasn’t the salary pretty good?”

“Well that’s… together with my two hundred infantry, I can say that our salary can increase by five times”

“That’s amazing”

“It’s not good. It got leaked by my subordinate who was listening secretly, and now I’m showered with blame. Naturally I won’t be leaving the mercenary corp though.”

I’m a little relieved.

It isn’t just Cougar-san’s troops, all the commanders got an invitation.

However, no one wants to leave the mercenary corp. United by an unbreakable bond, it means that there is no one who would leave behind their comrades.

Now the commanders and I, who is a close associate, have become the senior soldiers.

There are also some arrogant newcomers, it’s going to be tough.

I also understand that the mercenary corp will have to pay. Ganglabe-san’s steel-like liver and heart deserve merit.

Ganglabe-san also refused the invitation stubbornly trying to do something for the management of the mercenary corp.

Wanting to invite but, not wanting to pass them into the enemy’s hands.

Outwitting such a feudal lord, diligently working to making money.

I was just surprised by Ganglabe-san’s trickery.

This time a certain country’s royalty gave a request trying to hire our entire mercenary corp.

I hear that it’s a concerning battle for the forest’s resources.

That forest had condiments as wildlife. It seems like a land where medicine made from vegetables and a large amount of resources and food sleeps.

I hear the battle happened because neighbouring country came to fight for the vegetables and medicine here.

In that neighbouring territory it still has mineral resources.

The scramble for resources is same no matter where it is.

And we became the the ones picked by the royalty who want to protect the forest's resources.

"What sort of reason is that I wonder, Ahrius-san"

"We are already gathering the equipment such as armour required for the maintenance of the troops. Making a favour for the merchant and adjustments for the guild, and at the very least there will not be a problem with the armour.

However, food will be consumed daily. Even if we don't pay, food will decrease.

That's why, this time treat it as an opportunity and pile up on our food related items on this convenient route."

"As expected of Ahrius-san. So detailed"

"No, food related matters must be known best by you or else…"

She shortened her words and I reflected on this.

As a result we won. Quickly too.

The preparation for battle were done to begin with, and the opponent wasn't that big of a deal as well.

However, the problem happened after the battle.

Somehow, the additional reward is between the other two mercenary corps and ours, basically only one of the three corps will be paid is what they're saying.

Just as I thought, 'Impossible', the King said.

"Our daughter is a gourmet. However, recently she is not satisfied with normal food.

Therefore if you people can cook up something satisfying, I shall pay the

additional rewards to that corp.”

Annoying.

That self-important attitude is pissing me off.

However, Ganglabe-san is looking evil.

He was straining the limits of what he could do, the face of a demon king.

“What we wish to eat is something, sweet, sour, spicy, bitter, and delicious.

Show me what you got”

A young, chibi princess. What? Does she mean I have to cook something which fulfills almost all of the human tastes?

The other mercenary corps couldn’t hide their bewilderment. Of course, neither could Ganglabe-san.

Normally speaking, there’s no way that kind of cooking could taste good.

Normally, that is.

The other corps were speaking to their cooks and urging them to succeed.

Those cooks were looking sad as they fight this losing battle.

“Shuri, can you do it?”

Ganglabe-san is worried as well.

Now that I’ve moved into the kitchen from the royal audience, I’m pretty worried too.

“Um, I’m not too familiar with it but, well I know the gist of it”

“Really!?”

“Well, it’s quite a unique dish though”

This is sweet, sour, spicy and bitter, and delicious.

The only problem is the adjustment of seasoning.

“Is there anything I can help with?”

“Then can you please tell Ahrius-san that tomorrow’s Boiled Tofu will have to be postponed.”

“That… seems a little difficult”

“Please try. This dish uses tofu as the main ingredient so, we can’t start without tofu”

Lately Ahrius-san has been hooked on Boiled Tofu which no matter how much you eat will help you become healthier without gaining any weight.

It has already become a force of deep desire. Seemingly like how some female subordinate’s skin tone became nicer.

That’s why, I was delighted that Boiled Tofu day just up and went away.

Because postponing that would probably be quite tough.

“Then I’ll make it”

This time I’m making Mapo Tofu.

Eh? Just spicy?

Not at all, if you exclude the Sichuan from the Mapo Tofu, it’s sweet, sour, spicy, bitter, and delicious Skillfully making the Doubanjiang as well as the thing I made in the past, and the Mapo Tofu is complete.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubanjiang) “This looks pretty spicy though…”

“It’s spicy if you aren’t used to it. However, once you’re addicted to it you would be deeply moved by all the flavours”

Going back into the royal audience, it appears that there are already other mercenary corps waiting.

No matter how you looked at it they were shit.

“Terrible!”

The princess was also angry-ish.

Well of course anyone would be mad if you bring out something disgusting.

“You’re the last ones huh…”

Oh? The princess is completely exhausted.

Without realising it she took out the Mapo Tofu.

The princess looked puzzled.

“What, is this”

“Mapo Tofu”

“Maa… what?”

“Please try it. It’s good”

The princess timidly took a spoonful of tofu and paste and ate it.

She stopped.

“H-h-hot, so hot!”

“Little princess, please savour it a bit more”

A young princess in agony due to the spiciness.

She shut her eyes as if trying to endure it.

And then her teary eyes became ones of shock.

“…It’s sweet?”

“That’s the sweetness of tofu”

“And sour”

“One of the flavours of Doubanjiang”

“Its also… bitter”

“Cause it’s been heated thoroughly in the pot”

“Lastly, spicy”

“It’s the Japanese pepper and Doubanjiang”

The princess appeared to have gotten used to it and started heartily eating the Mapo Tofu.

“Good! So good!”

“Please wipe away your sweat while eating.

I thought it was just right for the chilly Princess.”

“What?”

“After coming here, my feet have been constantly moving because of the cold, so that’s what I thought”

The princess was surprised but, she immediately smiled.

A smile similar to flowers blooming.

“You have peaked my interest. Become my cook!”

“Ah, I can’t do that”

Because I’m the cook in Ganglabe-san’s corp.

So in the end it turned out to be quite a mess.

We were able to properly receive the additional rewards, and regarding the sale of food, it went off without a hitch.

The princess seemed quite reluctant to separate so I wrote down the recipe and gave it to the imperial cooks.

Just in case I also put in the recipe for Sichuan Mapo Tofu, Mapo Eggplant and Mapo-don.

Having a repertoire is important after all. You’d get tired of eating the same thing.

The next day, I received a letter of gratitude and a knife from the princess.

I’ll use it with great care.

Chapter 14 - Mapo Tofu of Unreasonable Demand (Part 2)

The start to our dreams was sudden. It's beginning is something future generations won't know.

I desperately live and fight seeing the corp become bigger and comrades increasing.

For the sake of these guys, I think I want to struggle towards the dream.

Since Shuri has joined the corp, a year has passed already.

Before I knew it my mercenary corp became a large family of over a thousand.

My childhood friends as commanding officers all have vice-commanders to support them.

Fortunately I have the ability to maintain such a large force, somehow making it what it is today.

I think the main reason is Shuri's cooking.

The guys who join our corp always drop their complaints. Working cheaply or something or other like that.

However they retract their comments when they notice that the provided meals are delicious to that extent. It's because they remembered they had money saved for drinking in town.

Well of course, I think when one the expenses are taken care of they would also save up some money. I also only just started to happily save up the money I used for drinking. I have no where to use it.

And I try asking Shuri.

"Then how about giving Ahrius-san a ring as proof of betrothal."

"A ring?"

"Yes. The place I was from, uses a ring as proof of betrothal and to propose.

It’s seems to be that if it’s the ring finger on the left hand then it’s for marriage, if it’s the right ring finger then it means you have a person you swore the future with”

This is the scales from your eyes thing.

I decided to prepare an amazing ring to surprise her.

And now, this time’s battle.

It is the battle between the country of Newbyst who owns the woodlands of Newbyst where food and medicinal resources are abundant and Yuyubi where mineral resources are abundant.

I gave Shuri a rough explanation but, in this battle there’s a whole crowd of deceitful strategies.

Originally Yuyubi proposed a marriage alliance with the royalty of Newbyst.

However the ore resources will eventually dry out. However if you leave the woodland resources alone it’s possible to gather again.

According to the alliance, the profits on Newbyst’s side are few, on the other hand according to Yuyubi because they expected to take excessively from the woodland resources, Newbyst refused this.

And then having the royal engagement one-sidedly revoked, after the angry Yuyubi made a declaration of war, the battle started.

If the engagement succeeds the resources would be snatched away brazenly, if it’s refused then utterly destroying and snatching away each of the former territories as justice.

Naturally Yuyubi didn’t think Newbyst would do something like surrender. A territory which has access to mineral resources also has a large quantity of high quality armour. It’s at a point where they can usually win 70% of the time.

Yuyubi must be looking down on us during negotiations.

In the beginning, the one who requested us mercenaries was Yuyubi. Recently our mercenary corp has been invincible and undefeated. We are famous as the mercenary corp no one wants to meet the most even on the battlefield.

However, Yuyubi came to tell us they want to hire us extremely cheap.

If we win they guarantee the mineral resources and weapons for us, of course.

Bastards underestimating us. Our corp already had no problem with the weapons and armour and such. The course of obtaining mineral resources and because we've been able to accept the lending of merchants, we don't need armours and such.

And compared to those shit things, the performance of the things that Riru make are better by far.

"How is it Riru? Yuyubi's armours"

"It's made with reasonable metallurgy technique. But, if it's just this then even Riru can manufacture it"

"Really?"

"Rather, after seeing this once and using it, I can make something even better.

In exchange for a hamburg steak, ok?"

Hamburg steak when she made the large portable stove and when she made the cauldron.

I just received a warning from Shuri saying, 'The reckless consumption of beef is severe'

"It's about time you separate from the hamburg steak. Even Shuri is feeling troubled"

"That deliciousness, I'm not giving up. That's Riru's JUSTICE!!!"

With Riru's drive and Hannya-like expression, I had no choice but to give up.

In any case, I'm not planning to fight alongside those guys who looked down on us.

There's no profit even in allying with Yuyubi so we decided to ally with Newbyst.

Because the royalty of Newbyst had a high chance of losing their own country, we were happily welcomed.

Well of course, the more allies the better.

And Newbyst is abundant with food resources and merchants as well as fellows trading food. I plan to maintain this market of opportunity.

This battle ended with victory.

The opponents were relying on weapons, and quickly retreat after we attacked them because they despised at our youth.

Well, it seems those Yuyubi bastards somehow secretly tried to lure away our Cougar, which is just right.

If Cougar gets out onto the front lines being invincible, stampeding through and dominating fear over the opponent.

Take that.

If we win we receive an additional reward.

Up to that point, it was just as planned.

Because the other two mercenary corps were also operating reasonably well, I was expecting to receive an additional reward.

But, something unexpected happened.

During the audience.

Producing an atmosphere which imitated the woodlands, the unique architectural style in the audience, was where Me and Shuri sat waiting.

By the way if you ask why I brought along Shuri, it just happened.

What happened was that I felt that it might turn out smoothly if I brought him along.

“I thank you people for your work. You have won this battle wonderfully, and protected this holy forest. I shall pay the additional reward”

Yes, just as planned.

I want to hurry up and go to negotiate with the merchant.

“However, only one mercenary corp will be paid”

…Huh?

“There is a condition. Even with only your people’s rewards, my territory’s wealth is quite limited. With that, I will only pay the one who satisfies these conditions.”

The other mercenary corp’s seemed to want to complain but, I was able to guess the circumstances immediately.

Indeed, this country’s wealth is limited. Since the time the battle was decided to begin, from the nation to the royal family had been simple and frugal. In order to survive everyone had to band together.

As a result they are successful in hiring three mercenary corps.

But they did not have the ability to pay the additional rewards.

In order for my situation to be guessed, I got my peace of mind.

For the sake of getting a peace of mind I was sympathizing with my situation.

However the other stupid mercenary corps are straining themselves looking for a way to take advantage of the situation.

Long-term stability. It’s said that that’s the basics for business and mercenaries.

But this royal family is nicer and smarter compared to that.

Even though it would’ve been fine if they had just finished with greetings and rewards, they decided to pay something additional with fair price.

I had a good feeling about that.

“Our daughter is a gourmet. However, recently she is unable to be satisfied by normal food.

Therefore if you people can cook up something satisfactory, I shall pay the additional rewards to that corp.”

We won!

I did the guts pose in my heart.

Who case about the other corps, we have a Shuri.

Taking advantage of this we would probably be able to connect with the royal

family and earn their backing.

Kukuku, let's take up this opportunity.

That girl, the princess was a young girl.

A beautiful girl complete with golden hair behind her. Wearing this territory's unique clothing.

My eyes were a bit unyielding.

I'm not quite sure why but, my feet were being fidgety. Is this restless legs syndrome?

"What we wish to eat is something, sweet, sour, spicy, bitter, and delicious.

Show me what you got"

What… was that?

I have no idea. There's no way something like that would taste good!

Those other damn corps were also troubled by this. Well of course.

Some crap which satisfies all those tastes, there's no way that would taste good!

But Shuri wasn't worried at all.

We, who moved to the kitchen, was about to immediately start cooking.

The other corps, everyone had a sad expression. Like they are challenging a losing battle.

"Shuri, can you do it?"

As expected, to this time's challenge, even I couldn't help but worry about Shuri.

Something delicious which satisfies all the tastes, I can't even imagine that.

"Um, I'm not too familiar with it but, well I know the gist of it"

… No way?

"Really!?"

"Well, it's quite a unique dish though"

Unique, you say?

I wonder if he needs my help.

“Is there anything I can help with?”

“Then can you please tell Ahrius-san that tomorrow’s Boiled Tofu will have to be postponed.”

“That… seems a little difficult”

Recently Ahrius was addicted to Boiled Tofu.

She was happy that it’s delicious, won’t make you fat, good for your health, and good for your skin.

I’ve noticed that our female subordinates’ skin texture improved.

“Please try. This dish uses tofu as the main ingredient so, we can’t start without tofu”

Tofu? This dish uses tofu you say?

“Well I’ll make it now”

What he took out was spring onions and minced beef, tofu and Japanese pepper with garlic and ginger, creates a seasoning made from mixing it with a large amount of sugar and alcohol, mysterious white liquid and a mysterious dark red seasoning.

This is spicy just to look at, this is the seasoning? Speaking of which, there was a time where Shuri managed to cram various ingredients into small bottles. Was this that?

Shuri took out the portable stove and pot then started to fry the minced beef and tofu with spring onions.

It was just shaking the pot, and stirring it around a bit with the ladle he took out, so saying frying seems a little wrong.

I asked before, it seems to be a technique called ‘Stir-frying’.

Flavouring it with the mysterious white liquid and the dark red strange seasoning, adding the Japanese pepper then cooking it again, it looks complete.

The finished product was a mysterious dish of red liquid.

“This looks pretty spicy though…”

“It’s spicy if you aren’t used to it. However, once you’re addicted to it you would be deeply moved by all the flavours”

Really?

It really didn’t seem like that but Shuri was full of confidence, so I believed him.

Returning back to the audience, it was after all the other mercenary’s corps had already brought back dishes.

Looking at the princess, she was angry from head to toe.

“Terrible!”

With vigor like she could toss the plate.

Even seeing it from afar, I could only see crap dishes. That would definitely taste bad.

“Princess. Our chef, Shuri has prepared a dish. Please enjoy”

“You’re the last ones huh…”

I guess the previous dishes were just way too bad. The princess’s anger is justifiable. However she’s completely exhausted from having continued eating bad cooking.

But to Shuri that anger seemed like nothing special. He brought out his mysterious dish without a care.

With a gulp the princess’ expression changed.

“What, is this”

“Mapo Tofu”

I see, it’s name is Maapou Toufu.

I’ve never heard of such a dish.

“Maa… what?”

“Please try it. It’s delicious”

Liar. It’s obviously spicy.

If it’s bad your head will fly you know. Isn’t he scared?

The princess timidly scooped up a spoon and ate it.

She pauses, and looked like she was about to cry.

“H-h-hot, so hot!”

It’s spicy after all!

This is bad, the surrounding guards look like their about to draw their swords.

If this was going to happen it would’ve been good to bring Cougar along.

Cold sweat wouldn’t stop flowing.

“Little princess, please savour it a bit more”

While she’s in agony from the spiciness, she closed her eyes as if to somehow endure it.

Doing so, she seemed to be surprised?

“…It’s sweet?”

What!? Sweet?!

“That’s the sweetness of tofu”

Tofu, I see. That is indeed the sweetness of the original bean.

“And sour”

“One of the flavours of Doubanjiang”

“Its also… bitter”

“Cause it’s been heated thoroughly in the pot”

“Lastly, spicy”

“It’s the Japanese pepper and Doubanjiang”

Amazing, it’s been planned up to here.

The entire process and all the ingredients reinforce the flavour, letting it cook, and letting it finish.

Amazing technique. Being able to even do this, this guy!

The princess also got used to the spiciness and is eating heartily.

It is like she's entranced by how delicious it is.

"Good! So good!"

"Please wipe away your sweat while eating.

I thought it was just right for the chilly Princess."

… Chilly?

"What?"

"After coming here, my feet have been constantly moving because of the cold, so that's what I thought"

So those fidgeting legs were because of the cold!

During noon, like now, the inside of this building was warm.

But, females probably have it tough.

Speaking of which Ahrius too, I remember that she sighed that she was troubled by the chill from her hands and feet.

It seems that is something peculiar to females, I hear that it's quite painful during night or places where the sun doesn't shine.

That was something he only saw a little and actually noticed it!

The princess was also shocked but she smiled.

A warm body, and she also ate something delicious.

With this the additional rewards are ours!

"You have peaked my interest. Become our chef!"

"Ah, I can't do that"

Just when I was ecstatic something unthinkable happened, and from that unthinkable matter something even more unthinkable happened.

In a single moment I went through a battlefield.

In the end, preventing Shuri's recruitment was successful.

We got our additional rewards and the Food Sales route was also in our grasp. Accommodation was also received.

However we can't be careless.

That princess' attachment regarding Shuri is strong. I don't know where or when she'll recruit him or take strong measures and kidnap him.

I had no choice but to give him Cougar and Teg's troops to protect him.

Geez, what a headache.

"Ganglabe-san, I've troubled you"

"Ah? No helping it. Your cooking is just that charming"

"Is that so. Ah, so that the princess can eat it whenever she wants, I've left behind the recipe and seasoning."

"What?"

"No well, as long as you know the method, you can create it even without a portable stove. I also gave them various recipes on it's applications, now we can move out"

Indeed, it's true if the princess is satisfied, the probability that she would do something reckless would also lower.

But we can't be careless.

Royalty are people who attack unknowingly. It's necessary to be on guard.

However, nothing happened even after a few days.

Rather a thank you letter and a knife with the mark of the royal family was sent over.

Isn't this just marking him as one of them.

But Shuri is happily using the knife.

I wonder if he understands the meaning of that.

Well, it's this guy so I feel like it'll somehow be fine.

By the way, Ahrius was angry.

It seems she really couldn’t forgive the extension for Boiled Tofu.

Chapter 15 - Mapo Tofu of Unreasonable Demand (Part 3)

I am Tebis Newbyst. The gourmet of Newbyst. And the first princess of the Newbyst family. I turn 10 this year.

The territory I live in, Newbyst, is an abundant land embraced by the holy woodlands. In the this woodlands abundant with wildlife and food, medicine, we worship god's gifts and the forest he lives in, giving thanks to it.

Because of this land, our agricultural and cooking techniques are quite good. Year after year, we can eat deliciously. We, the royalty, are also thankful for that.

However suddenly the neighbouring country Yuyubi came and proposed a marriage between me and their prince.

In this land where the forest resources are abundant but the mineral resources pitiful, doing trade with Yuyubi we could get our hands on minerals. Up till now it was fine and I thought that it would continue to be like this.

However we could see that the mineral exhaustion in Yuyubi. That is when this friendly relationship was destroyed.

Yuyubi's troops were also strong. The quality of their weapons and armours are high. If battle happens, we probably cannot win fair and square.

Father noticed the neighbouring country's resource problems and was going to refuse but, is likely worried about the difference in troops.

In the first place I don't even like the prince of Yuyubi. We met many times during the banquet but I hate that prideful attitude and arrogant personality of his.

However, there are times when royalty must kill off their own feelings and become a bride. I resolved myself saying, at the very least as a good wife I can just work hard.

Reserving the reply, the next day this problem was complicated by the council. If I refuse the marriage it'll become war. If it becomes war we can't win.

But if we accept the marriage then we'll be taken advantage of. At least accommodating trade is better than being uncertain.

On such a day, suddenly Yuyubi came to declare war.

The reason was the marriage proposal, the shame of having not received a response.

Has there ever been such a ridiculous story. There have indeed been wars originating from the breaking of a marriage but, our marriage hasn't even been decided. This is completely unreasonable.

However, we also didn't know if this was Yuyubi's goal.

Either way, it's a plan to take the holy forest. At the time of proposing the marriage, we were already at a checkmate.

Once again the attitude regarding the war was complicated by the council. Should we fight to the bitter end or surrender. Saying things like we should do something while the injuries are light, and beg the enemy for forgiveness.

In the end, father gave his verdict.

We fight to the end.

The matter is that if the woodlands were dirtied it'll be ambushed by mining bumpkins.

For that sake, only this year did the citizens get subjected to army conscription and tax increase. Luckily a revolt didn't happen but our victory is at most 30%.

I too, was told to flee with my maid and close aide by my father.

"No, I won't run!"

"I don't know if this war can be won or not! Run to the forest while I lead the troops! If you do that, even in the worst case you can survive!"

"The citizens and officers, I won't abandon the soldiers! I won't abandon father either!"

"You fool…!"

I, until now, have been supported by Father, our subordinates, and the citizens.

As such, I am unable to flee and abandon everyone.

So in the end, I remained in the castle and devoted myself to praying.

So that we can win the war, so that father and everyone else and come back safe and sound.

Without even eating food, the castle which has become a monastery is cold and lonely. My hands and feet are becoming chilly.

Despite that I continued to dedicate myself to praying.

It's been three days since, and the maid came into the holy hall with a face full of smiles.

"Princess! Good news!"

"Have we won the war!?"

"No, it's not that but…"

The maid was slightly troubled but immediately smiled.

"We hired three mercenary corps"

"Mercenaries? I heard that we hired two though"

Where is the good news in that.

Those two mercenary corps, knowing our poverty deliberately raised the reward compensation.

Somehow having hired them, it bringing harm to our economic situation is a fact.

Those kind of people, there's no way I'll accept them!

"The last one is 'that' mercenary corp princess"

"'That'? Where from"

"It's the Ganglabe Mercenary Corp princess! 'That' leader knowing our poverty is willing to accept the war with the minimal rewards!"

Ganglabe Mercenary Corp you say!?

Ganglabe Mercenary Corp grew rapidly this year, and is the mercenary corp

with the most ability right now.

It was originally insignificant with only around fifty people but, the commanders all acquired abilities at the same time, and it's said that each of them have the strength of a thousand people.

In the siege war of Yanangan "Maverick Inventor" Riru with her new invention utterly destroyed the castle which was claimed impregnable in a mere three days.

Defending the retreat route in the Salt Highway, that "Hundred Killer Death God" Cougar chased away the opponent just by himself.

In the utterly crushing Snow Mountain battle "Hard Blaze Witch" Ahrius displayed a feat in which her new magic melted all the snow on the snow mountain.

"Bow Saint" Teg with his skills able to hit even a target extremely far away, is said to be able to defeat absolute all commanders.

With just Ganglabe Mercenary Corp being there, they are able to successfully defend a castle which should have fallen, and is known right now as the number one mercenary corp that you would not wish to meet on the battlefield.

"Why, us? If it's that kind of mercenary corp, there's also a high chance that Yuyubi's large amount of gold could've hired them."

"Well that, I'm not quite sure about the reason"

Not sure?

"Yes, the food supplies route and it seems their goal is exchanging negotiations with merchants but…they said "I want to increase my repertoire…" in a small voice. Wonder what that is about?"

Repertoire.

Is it the food repertoire?

No, there's no way that for the sole sake of increasing their cooking repertoire such elite troops would participate in war, no way.

Then is it tactics?

I don’t know, there’s way too little judging information.

“Anyway princess. If it’s Ganglabe Mercenary Corp, there’s no need to worry”

“Y-yes. If it’s that mercenary corp then they might be able to do something somehow”

The military power just that mercenary corp holds is extraordinarily ridiculous.

Amassing five people where each of them wield the power of reversing battlefields.

I can’t imagine them losing.

A few days after, the battle was won.

Without a doubt, a sudden reversal on the battlefield where our troops and the other mercenary corps fought a hard battle, Ganglabe’s Corp launched a surprise attack as an interruption.

Splitting the opponent’s team right in half, it seems like the plan was to destroy the isolated troops from the beginning.

At that time, the one who led the cavalry was Leader Ganglabe-dono.

Pursuing the opponent, eliminating them.

The was was a perfect victory. The opponent’s commander and generals were captured as prisoners of war, bringing about a complete victory.

The troops returning from war were welcomed by citizens with large open arms.

A grand victory parade was held, the soldiers who have returned to the castle are sharing their victory with their comrades on standby.

The commander as well as the shogun were granted a reward and medal, they seemed happy.

Father said.

“This battle. If Ganglabe Mercenary Corp did not come to us, We would probably not be here right now”

“Did they hold such power?”

“Yes. After interfering with the battlefield with a surprise attack, crushing each of them was scarily smooth. Even crushing each of them, in front of the might that is the commander figures with the power of a thousand men seemed to appear as something tame.

Above all, the pursuit after was over immediately. Teg-dono’s bow reaches from a scary distance. There was no need to pursuit too far”

On father’s face, you could see rather than the joy of having survived it seems the relief from having a death god as an ally is greater.

However a problem has also occurred.

We must pay the mercenary corps an additional reward however, we do not have enough money for that.

From what I’ve heard the cabinet minister, shogun and commanders say, truthfully speaking I too think that it’s fine to pay only Ganglabe-dono.

The other corps were truthfully just making up for useless members. The Shoguns too, seem to see them in a good light.

I wonder what we should do. And that’s when,

Kururu~

My stomach growled.

I looked down with a red face but father as well as the cabinet minister were somehow relieved.

“Princess too, you can be at ease and eat now”

“Indeed. ‘Peace is the best’ can only be felt in this moment when peace has been attained”

Father hearing that, smiled at me.

“How about this, the one to make something delicious for our daughter shall be paid the reward”

“Alright. And we can pay Ganglabe-dono like this”

Is that ok? was what I was honestly thinking but, I was silent ‘Well, that’s fine too’

And then calling for the mercenary leaders and their aides, having something to say during the audience.

The other corp's only had their leaders here but, Ganglabe-dono brought a mysterious man to his side.

Black hair and black eyes, a thin line-like body and a delicate face.

'What's with this guy' I seriously thought.

Initiating the audience, Father started speaking of the arrangement.

Basically, the additional rewards will be paid.

Basically, paid only to one.

Basically, make a delicacy.

The mercenary leaders were looking unsatisfied but if it was me speaking I would want to say those who survive, survive; that I wouldn't ever pay you people who took advantage of us, and raised the fees.

Which is why I said in a malicious way.

"What I wish to eat is a delicious dish which is sweet, sour, spicy and bitter. Show me what you got"

With this the mercenary's corps' grew gloomy. My father by my side also, although he couldn't reveal his expression, seemed to want to say 'That's impossible'.

However it's fine if I ask for something like this. In the first place I have some expectations towards that kind of dish.

I have eaten up this country's delicacies and delicious foods, so I have confidence in my tongue. If we preferred Ganglabe's corp then even the other corps can't complain.

In reality, what the other corps brought up were terrible. It wasn't edible.

Even though I was the one who suggested this, I'm getting angry.

"Terrible!"

It really was bad so there's no helping it. There's no way I can eat this kind of

strange combination.

As the other corps were in the middle of returning with a trot, Ganglabe-dono finally came out.

The man next to him was carrying the plate so, somehow that man appears to be their cook.

“Princess. Our chef, Shuri has prepared a dish. Please enjoy”

“You’re the last ones huh…”

I was boiling in anger from continued eating bad food but, I held it down and replied. I’m already so tired.

However what the man called Shuri brought out was a strange dish. I’ve never seen it before.

Dark red. I understand that the ingredients are small pieces of meat, spring onions and tofu.

But everything else was a blank. Even my nose couldn’t judge this.

“What, is this”

“Mapo Tofu”

Maapou Toufu?

Never heard of it. This dish.

“Maa… what?”

“Please try it. It’s good”

Sounds fake. This kind of strange soup can’t be delicious.

However if I don’t eat this then Ganglabe’s Mercenary Corp won’t be paid its additional reward.

With a do-or-die resolve I ate it.

…Hot!!

The insides of my mouth were so hot it’s burning!

“H-h-hot, so hot!”

This is way too spicy! How is it delicious!

“Little princess, please savour it well”

Savour it!? In this torture?!

Adding little as well, I will kill this guy!

However as I control myself, a mysterious sensation spread through the inside of my mouth.

“… It’s sweet?”

It’s sweet. Inside this spiciness there exists a sweetness.

It lightly crumbles inside my mouth and spreads, what I felt was some kind of sweetness.

I see, this is the bean.

The slight sweetness of the bean. And that completely spread throughout the inside of my mouth.

“That’s the sweetness of tofu”

Toufu.

Recently, I hear that this is a food made from beans that’s reached the public.

There’s no sign of the bean’s original shape, and you can eat it just like that, fried or boiled.

Furthermore it’s said to be delicious whether it’s cold or hot, a strange food.

If I recall correctly half a year ago, it was spread out from some place.

And this is something with that in it.

“And sour”

Just slightly sour. Prepared nicely with the spiciness and sweetness.

If you don’t taste it properly you wouldn’t realise but, it’s certainly there.

“One of the flavours of Doubanjiang”

Doubanjiang?

I’ve never heard of that.

Even as one of the country's gourmets I don't know a single bit about such a thing.

"Its also… bitter"

Except, this bitterness is different from the one of food.

A flavour added naturally, or added somehow using some method.

"Cause it's been heated thoroughly in the pot"

Was this dish fried?

Even though it's heated thoroughly, there's not one part which is burnt.

Despite that isn't there that peculiar bitterness from frying.

Except it's not a bad bitter.

A peculiar bitterness, been done well.

"Lastly, spicy"

"It's the Japanese pepper and Doubanjiang"

I see, it's a spiciness which has a refreshing flavour in the middle.

So this is because this has Japanese pepper is in it!

After understanding that, it's not just spicy, made with each and every complex flavour and technique, I understand that it's a wonderful dish.

Realising that I understood that this is a wonderful dish cooked with different and complex techniques creating such flavours.

Even though these flavours are co-existing, it's almost as if they're fighting.

Even the imperial cooks of this castle can't cook something like this.

A cook like this, it's strange why he would belong to a mere mercenary corp.

If it's this man then naturally he'd be popular with not only our country but any country.

But right now I want to enjoy this dish.

"Good! So good!"

Ah, since the war started till now, I can't help but think that this is the greatest

reward for enduring so long.

Praying continuously, unable to even pass food down my throat, I only thought about my precious father and chief vassal, and citizens being able to come home safely.

And then winning the war, and capturing prisoners of war, the peace that finally arrived.

I can only say that this dish is worthy of that peace.

“Please wipe away your sweat while eating.

I thought it was just right for the chilly Princess.”

“What?”

Indeed my temperature’s been raised to the point that I’m sweating. The cold and such from before seemed to be a lie.

When I noticed my hands and feet weren’t cold at all. It was to the point where I thought this room was just the right coolness.

“After coming here, my feet have been constantly moving because of the cold, so that’s what I thought”

This guy, he saw through my chills with one glance!?

And then I arrived at the shocking truth.

This dish, not only perfectly fulfills my condition, it’s even a medicine which cures my chills!

It’s not just delicious, it can also warm the body!

Maybe that was his goal from the beginning.

Clearing my conditions, curing my chills, it was a dish with no complaints whatsoever with receiving the additional rewards.

Perfect. The perfect chef.

Imaginative Cooking.

The art to make that.

The insight to see through the others condition.

The knowledge to comprehend the combination of ingredients.

Only he, is fitting to become my chef!

“You have peaked my interest. Become our chef!”

“Ah, I can’t do that”

My invitation was refused in no more than 3 seconds.

In the end, Shuri didn’t become my chef.

Even talking it over with my father, and assuming we somehow inviting them in, Shuri selfishly declines on the behalf of Ganglabe. No matter how good the compensation or money, that person will just nonchalantly decline.

Ganglabe-dono as well, no matter how much we raise the price wouldn’t let him go.

Well, I get it.

A chef with those smarts and technique. He is a talent that is vital for Ganglabe’s mercenary crop which will continue to grow bigger.

Therefore I want it. A person with as much ability as Shuri.

“Sigh…”

I sigh as I fall onto my bed.

After eating such a delicacy, the evening banquet was like a blur.

It didn’t matter if it was there or not.

Naturally there’s wouldn’t be any complaints to be had for a banquet to be opened as a victory celebration.

Why would there be complaints about rewarding the hardships of the shogun, soldiers and citizens.

However, compared with the Maapou Toufu, I couldn’t sense the appeal of the food at the banquet.

“As expected, I can only send a spy from somewhere and secretly kidnap….”

I wanted Shuri to the point where such a dangerous thought calmly came out of my mouth.

Naturally I want the cooking that that man makes so I would never have a man-woman relationship with him.

“Princess. It seems there’s something our chef’s would like you to taste…”

The maid who entered looked a little troubled.

Was I thinking so much I didn’t notice the knock?

“What? I’m busy thinking. And after this there’s a dinner party”

“Yes, that’s what I said as well but, they wouldn’t listen no matter what…”

What? Is it wanting to test-taste tonight’s new dish?

Sitting up on my bed and looking up, there was something that I couldn’t believe.

“It seems they wanted to trial this Maapou Toufu dish but…. I’ll cancel it”

“Bring it here immediately!”

“Y-yes!?”

The maid was surprised but that’s of no concern to me!

Quickly bringing it here, I ate it.

… It can’t compare with Shuri’s cooking no matter what but, it is indeed Maapou Toufu.

Maybe it was made sweet or maybe the seasoning was done wrong intentionally. It isn’t as perfect as Shuri’s.

But there’s no doubt it’s Maapou Toufu.

“How is this here?”

“Yes, actually the cook from Ganglabe’s mercenary corp as gratitude for letting him use the kitchen left behind the recipe and a little seasoning.”

“What!?”

A recipe as good as that, what kind of generous declaration is that!?

“Then after the chefs tried to cook it, everyone was surprised by the technique used in the dish and the deliciousness, and I was told to ask the princess who’s

eaten the original for a taste test and her thoughts”

“I see…”

Truthfully speaking, there’s a world of difference with Shuri’s one.

However, for a first time making this I would say this makes the passing mark.

“I will say my thoughts directly”

“I understand. And, here’s the next sample”

… What did you say?

“Next? What is there?”

“Yes, truthfully the cook didn’t just leave behind just one recipe”

Not just one!!?

“What is the meaning of this!”

“Yes, combining the Maapou Toufu with something else, changing the seasoning and there’s a few repertoires there.

When he left these behind the cook also left these words behind ‘You’ll tire of eating the same things so, enjoy these few Maapou Toufu’”

What a thing to say, there’s a wealth of variety with a dish so charming!?

Maybe, did he predict that I would release my spies and so sent the food in front of me as a way of handling me?!

Ohh, just how many steps ahead of me has Shuri read ahead……

Damn, I come to want Shuri more and more.

However I think I’ll stop from releasing the spies to kidnap him.

Right now I want to enjoy those few varieties of his.

“Later on at the dinner party, tell the chefs to make the trial products to sample. This might be a wonderful chance for our country to birth a new culture.

Get motivated, tell them.”

“Yes, certainly”

After the maid left the room, I thought by myself.

And then I couldn’t stop laughing.

“Kukukuku. Whatever you are thinking, you will definitely become mine.

You’ve just fascinated me this much. It’s good to praise obvious skill.

Kukukuku. Making a gourmet like myself go this far.”

Shuri’s cooking prepares the body condition, uplifts the mood.

This isn’t only helpful for wars but even diplomacy. This is clear to me.

Ganglabe-dono being unable to let go of Shuri, was probably because of this.

That cooking unifies the corp, and can be put to advantageous use in negotiations or diplomacies.

You sure are a capable person, Ganglabe-dono.

As expected of the one called “Sword Trickster Devil”.

Later I sampled the subspecies of Maapou Toufu.

All of them taste good. I had a feeling like I wanted to eat what Shuri made but, right now it’s fine like this.

In the recipe it’s politely written in detail from how to make the seasoning to how to heat it. As for the imperial chefs, they’ll probably eventually master this technique. Because even the method to make the toufu is recorded.

I negotiated with my father, and proposed to make sure that Shuri doesn’t go to other countries.

“If that chef is given to other countries, it’ll surely become harmful to Newbyst”

“To that extent? I don’t understand though”

“Father, no, Lord Prefect. I can say this for a certainty.

A chef whose competence and wit can earn a pass from cooking and my tongue, is someone who is extremely hard to replace.”

“Then what do you say we do? Kill him secretly?”

“No, that would be the worst decision. If we do that, there is no doubt that we’ll turn the entirety of Ganglabe’s mercenary corps into enemies.

That combat ability, carrying out surprise attacks and such without hesitation, they will bring harm our territory.”

“I want to avoid t-that. Then, what can we do”

“We should call dibs on them, King”

What I thought of was, sending a knife as a reward and a letter.

In addition to that, that knife has our country’s insignia on it, it’s top class.

In the letter is well, something Royalty send to those who they pay the greatest respects.

If I do that, even if other countries want to make Shuri theirs, it can interrupt.

“Dear country, what do you plan to do with the chef our country is on friendly terms with”

Said for the sake of asking indirectly if they have the resolve to contend diplomatically headhunting a person who is arranged to be one of our country’s officers.

Amongst foreign countries there are those who import food from Newbyst.

We can keep them at check with the achievements of the war victory this time and the benefits in trade.

Oh Shuri. When can I have an audience with you again.

At that time, let me have a fill of more and various cooking.

The dukedom of Newbyst.

That is where the large section of Yuyubi’s former mine area was absorbed as a large-scale agricultural area and, there are food supplies from vast woodlands combined with the vast food production area.

After the war with Yuyubi, negotiating with Yuyubi’s prince as a hostage, and started after receiving an enormous compensation money and land.

All the food made here are good quality, and is even popular in other countries.

With that sort of country administration, their cooking techniques are also

good.

If you walk in the streets restaurants are lined up, all of them delicacies.

All the tourists who visit here enjoy this country's peculiar cooking, and go home when they are satisfied.

And in Newbyst there is a local cuisine which even royalty eat.

The recipe having been publicised by the royalty to the citizens was spread and established through the country in a flash.

Later, one of Newbyst's gourmets, Queen Tebis Newbyst loves that dish above all else. Her favourite dish, that even after she grew old, she would definitely eat it at least once a week.

She is considered to prefer the Mapo Tofu that "King of Meals" Shuri Azuma left behind.

Again, it's been pass down that "King of Meals" Shuri Azuma is the first to have publicised Mapo Tofu to this world.

Chapter 16 - Cheesecake of Attraction (Part 1)

Recently I've been talking more with the troops.

Somehow my cooking has gained a surprising popularity, and they seem to came to see what kind of guy made that, becoming friendly with me along the way.

I'm thankful that my close friends are increasing.

My subordinates too, in the beginning they would say this and that but after eating my cooking they wanted to call me Sensei.

Sensei… I'm not such a great character like that but. I wanted them to call me something else but, they stubbornly refused. Couldn't do anything about it so I accepted. This is also fate.

It's Shuri. Cooking with the new knife is fun nowadays.

Somehow the sharpness as well as the ease-of-use is good, Ganglabe-san looks bitter but I'm pleased with it. The insignia on the back of the blade is also pretty cool.

Now then, I've already been cooking here for over a year already. There's something I want to challenge.

Making desserts.

Around the time when we had also guaranteed our food supply market, it's become that we can get sugar and eggs. So I tried making some Tamagoyaki for Ahrius-san.

"It's sweet…. this is egg!?"

"Yes. I also made some omelettes but, which do you like more?"

"Hn… yes… it's difficult to say which but if I had to say, the sugar"

"What if I said, using this I can make a new type of dessert"

"I'm the best at sampling food. Is that ok?"

With such overwhelming vigor and despairing difference in power, I could do nothing but nod in agreement.

By the way it seems like the subordinates who heard this conversation unreasonably blamed Ahrius-san. It's not my fault.

However in order to make sweets, there are a variety of necessary things.

Obviously ingredients for one, measurements, sieves, an oven as well as a variety of necessary tools. Making sweets is a contest of accurate amounts and time.

Therefore I tried talking about it with Riru-san.

"So basically, it's necessary for making desserts"

"I'll do it"

"Ah, yes"

"Once you're done Riru is first. OK?"

"That is… well…"

"First"

When I was urged by that vigor and began nodding, Ahrius-san's intrusion problem managed to be avoided.

It's begun to develop into an unreasonable fight but, when I want to say that I can't do it, suddenly I smile and shake her hand with friendly appeal. In that sudden development, my reasoning went over my head.

In the end, I had various tools made for me.

Later that day, we were called in to a certain ceremony.

This time it was a martial art competition which developed because of an argument between the Imperial Guards Squad and the Knight's Order.

According to Ganglabe-san's information, the Knight's Order are the sole protectors of the country's defense, whereas the imperial guards are responsible are guarding the capital and the last wall of defense.

I hear that it seems to be about whose social position is more important.

Haha, it's a funny story.

Both of them are indispensable which is why they exists and there's no doubt

that having both at hand is a wonderful thing.

“If everyone thought like Shuri, it’d probably be easier”

“That’s true. By the way, what’s the reason they called us to that ceremony”

“Do you remember? Last year, there was that battle about the right for Salt Highway.

We were invited as guests to the martial arts contest this time because they weren’t able to thank us for that.”

“Somehow, it seems like they’re calling dibs”

“Exactly. Inviting in our corp as guests, appealing to the public that they are friendly with us may be their purpose.

Be careful. Because the possibility that they are aiming for Shuri, also exists”

This isn’t like Cougar-san.

This time, Cougar-san is the representative of the guests to be in a trial contest.

It seems his opponent is the leader of the Knight’s Order and the commander of the Imperial Guards. I hear that the last one standing fights with the winner of this contest.

The trial contest is in the courtyard of the contest, operating on the private stage they made.

“It’s almost time”

“Ah, it doesn’t matter who I fight but it depends on how the other moves”

“I too have something I want to ask of Ganglabe-san”

“Hou, what is it”

“At the trial contest, I’m told to make a very important dessert”

That’s right, in this world things called desserts can only be eaten by royalty, and it seems that that is an extremely luxurious food.

That’s when I decided to make a Cheesecake.

“For now, I came because I wanted Cougar-san to sample this.”

“This is… cheese? Speaking of cheese, I can only think of it as something to accompany alcohol.”

Cheese is an all-purpose ingredient, good for food, good for dessert.

When I make this into Cheese Hamburg Steak, Riru-san will be even more addicted to it.

“This is… hard on the bottom and slightly soft on the top”

“Cutting through it with a spoon from the top, together with the lower base. Eat it together”

Cougar-san tried it, and ate it in one bite.

“This is… absolutely delicious. I had thought it was obvious that when you say that desserts are sweet.”

“This hardly uses any sugar. You’re savouring the original deliciousness of cheese and flour.”

“So that’s how it is. I like this dessert”

It seems that Cougar-san is full of vigor, that’s good.

When I distributed the Cheesecake at the trial contest, the Knight’s Order as well as the Imperial Guards, the royalty and chief vassals also seemed to like it.

“It sure is delicious, this dessert”

“It goes well with black tea”

“True. Who here made this?”

“The guests invited today, it seems it was made by Ganglabe-dono’s cook”

“Well, well…”

For some reason Ganglabe-san is talking with the chief vassals but it doesn’t really concern me so I devoted myself as the waiter.

By the way at the trial contest, Cougar-san fought with both the Knight’s Order and the Imperial Guard’s leader and commander, and he won with just two swings.

It isn’t the work of men to kill so many with a sword.

(TL: Recipes - Tamagoyaki: http://www.justonecookbook.com/tamagoyaki-japanese-rolled-omelette/

Cheesecake: http://www.justonecookbook.com/japanese-cheesecake/

Just a cheesecake and just an egg but I thought why not~)

Chapter 17 - Cheesecake of Attraction (Part 2)

Recently the people who have been coming to talk with Shuri is increasing.

Under the orders of Ganglabe, I took to monitoring the subordinates. Some of them were also at such a blunt distance, and after I talk to those guys, there were those who wanted to secretly lure him away and handing money to him.

Those people were obviously being punished without a question but, Shuri didn't notice it at all. If possible it'll be good if he continues to not notice.

Such a shoddy plan, if that guy was to know he'll probably be hurt.

Changing my name from Infantry Commander to Infantry Great Commander, at this time today when it was being circulated that Cougar is amazing.

I was feeling a little depressed.

Why's that? It's pretty simple.

Recently, Riru-chan and Ahrius have been quarreling.

Naturally, if it's just an argument I'll stay out of it. It's not good to stick your head into it as well. My principle is not to get involved until the people concerned come for a discussion.

Except… Having a fight around dessert is childish right?

"Ahrius. Riru made this tool. The first to sample is obviously Riru"

"Riru. You almost everyday make your favourite Hamburg Steak to eat right? In that case, isn't it fine for me to sample and eat the things that I like this time?

"Ahrius, you eat so much Boiled Tofu. If you eat dessert you'll get fat"

"Back at you Riru, eating so much Hamburg Steak, your stomach is going to come out"

Scary. Must I get involved in this battlefield which stemmed from such a pointless fight.

The origin to this, is Shuri.

Because since making contact with the Newbyst's merchant, and getting our

hands on the ingredients market, we were able to obtain eggs, flour and sugar.

At that time Shuri tried making Tamagoyaki as a test.

The two kinds, one made from sugar and the other made from stock, I had also tried it but the one made from stock tasted better. Sugar was just a bit too sweet.

Ganglabe and Teg were on the stock team. But Riru-chan and Ahrius were on the sugar team.

My troops were also divided into the stock team and sugar team, having disputes over which is more delicious day and night. It's pointless so I don't participate. Tamagoyaki is best with stock. Naturally I don't say this out loud. I don't want to be involved in this argument.

That's when Shuri blurted out.

He wants to make desserts he says.

Desserts. The desserts that I know are way too sweet. A sweetness you can't even compare with Tamagoyaki. So sweet it'll give you heartburn.

The value of desserts is decided by the amount of sugar used. If a large amount of sugar is used in the making, it's considered to be luxurious.

However, it's so sweet that you don't want to eat it. That's how the common people see it. Those who take it out obviously have a reputation like royalty or feudal lords.

Riru-chan or Ahrius etc are just like girls and like desserts. Even one candy would have them in high spirits. Honestly speaking, I don't understand how that tastes good at all.

Anyhow, when the parts necessary for dessert making were gathered to build, the two of them started fighting for the eating order. Ganglabe escaped early, and gave the order for me to take control of the situation. My killing intent erupted.

By the way Teg wanting to stop them took on a knockdown. It was a beautiful kidney blow. He's probably dead. Even though he's twitching.

"The two of you. Calm down. Isn't it fine to just make two and eating it

together?”

“But, desserts are made one by one right?”

“Right, this is war. The first dessert, the Holy War around the very first bite”

“Here stands the reconquista”

So, pointless.

Such an exaggerated speech but, basically you guys just want to eat it first.

As I was worrying that I can’t stop this, Shuri forced his way through the two of them holding a ladle in one hand.

“The two of you. It’s about time you end this”

“Shuri, this is war. Don’t obstruct”

“Exactly, this is our fight. Please don’t get involved”

“Then it won’t get involved either, dessert. I’ll stop making it”

“Ahrius, let’s eat it together”

“Indeed. The world needs ‘Love & Peace’”

I saw the gates where people have their stomach stolen, they who possess unsightly faithlessness.

Even though I felt uncomfortable thinking of the two of them who in the end acted as if there was no fight from the beginning, it was a rare chance so I joined them as well.

By the way Ganglabe told me to bring some to him later and Teg was eyeing us from a distance whilst training. You guys, just come normally.

What he took out was sugar, flour, cheese, egg and butter. As well as a biscuit-like dessert which he says he made before as practise.

There’s only one thing which was quite strange.

It was white and fluffy, something mysterious.

“Shuri, I know this is flour but, what’s this white and fluffy thing?”

“This? This is fresh cream. Making this was quite tough”

While he says this, he breaks the biscuit into tiny pieces and mixes it with the butter, and pressed it together for some reason.

There he relied on Ahrius and chilled it.

And then he started to mix nothing but the cheese, fresh cream, sugar and eggs.

What exactly is he doing.

“Shuri, what’s that?”

“Haa, haa, this, is, something, made, like, this”

His breath was like it’s dying out.

After an appropriate time had passed, when it seemed to be finally done, he adds in the flour and gives it one stir.

Then he pours the earlier pressed biscuit into it, and baked it in the newly made oven.

After a little while it was done.

“I want this to cool down so, another day”

The two girls made an impressive face as if the world was ending.

Later, we were called to the ceremony of Oritol.

The reason being to be guests at the trial match between the Oritol Imperial guards and Knight’s Order.

However, properly speaking there is no reason for us to be called. Naturally, we played an active role at the previous defense at Salt Highway and it was thanks to us that they won.

But behind that information, the Oritol Imperial guards and Knight’s Order seem to have a bad relationship, and this official match was made to settle this.

No matter how they differ, the Commander of the Imperial Guards and Knight’s Order are brothers. Both of them are considerable experts. I hear that their magic and swordsmanship are top grade as well.

When Shuri heard that, he said that it would be good if they could work

together.

“It would be easier if everyone thought like Shuri”

“That’s true. By the way, what’s the reason they’re calling us to that ceremony”

“Do you remember? Last year, there was that battle about the right for Salt Highway.

We were invited as guests to the martial arts contest this time because they weren’t able to thank us for that.”

“Somehow, it seems like they’re calling dibs”

“Exactly. Inviting in our corp as guests, appealing to the public that they are friendly with us may be their purpose.

Be careful. Because the possibility that they are aiming for Shuri, also exists”

Wanting to be on friendly terms with our corp are royal affairs after all.

The Knight’s Order and Imperial Guards wholeheartedly want to beat me down.

This time, I will be taking part in this contest via the trial match.

So will the commanders of the Knight’s Order and the Imperial Guards.

To perceive the contest, I understand that no matter who’s subordinates they are, even they will train with suitable practice.

I wonder if they can defeat me, even though these commanders are only leading that kind of troops.

The contest was closing in and I came to the waiting room.

Far away I could see the visitor stands.

But for some reason, Shuri was also here.

“It’s almost time”

“Ah, it doesn’t matter who I fight but it depends on how the other moves”

“I too have something I want to ask of Ganglabe-san”

“Hou, what is it”

“At the trial contest, I’m told to make a very important dessert”

Hoh, is it about the thing he made the other day?

Shuri took out several of those, cut a section out and handed it to me.

Far away, it seems that the visitor stands have been distributed with the same.

The cut out section was a strange triangular shape.

Somehow it seems like the yellow and brown triangles have combined together.

“For now, I came because I wanted Cougar-san to sample this.”

“This is… cheese? Speaking of cheese, I can only think of it as something to accompany alcohol.”

Cheese for the side of alcohol. That’s irresistible.

Speaking of which, previously Riru said that if cheese and hamburg steak were combined it would bring forth Apocalypse. I didn’t really understand though.

Cutting it with a spoon to try, a mysterious feeling came again.

“This is… hard on the bottom and slightly soft on the top”

“Cutting through it with a spoon from the top, together with the lower base. Eat it together”

I see, this is something you eat together with the base and the cheese.

Cutting off a piece with enthusiasm I bring it to my mouth, I was surprised.

It’s sweet, but it’s not too strong.

However the sweetness coming from the cheese and cream was there. The biscuit and butter too.

That’s not all to this desserts sweetness.

First, the above section had a texture as if it was melting.

Light and fluffy, fleeting as if crumbles on your tongue.

But if you bite it, the texture is there.

This is the texture born from the bottom base.

On the top was the duo existence of a faint sweetness and melting texture.

On the bottom was a well cooked texture and a sweetness which lasts for only a light moment.

The desserts being circulated around the town here can't even reach the feet of this one.

No doubt, top quality taste.

"This is… absolutely delicious. I had thought it was obvious that when you say that desserts are sweet."

"This hardly uses any sugar. You're savouring the original deliciousness of cheese and flour."

"So that's how it is. I like this dessert"

It's not a lie and I don't even need to hold back on it.

I really do like this dessert.

Even if you use ridiculous amounts of sugar, a dessert this delicious and this sweet doesn't exist.

It's the best dessert to be eaten by someone who doesn't like sweets like myself.

Incidentally the two girls were eating this with a bewitched face.

That, there's no doubt that was done by request.

"By the way, was this dessert distributed to everyone?"

"Yes, to the Imperial Guards and the Knight's Order, even to the chief vassals and king"

Hou, they're able to eat something so good.

Somehow it feels like I'm full of power, in my best condition.

Carrying my sword on my shoulders I got up onto the stage but for some reason the commanders of both the Imperial Guards and Knight's Order were standing in front of me.

I sent a gaze to Ganglabe to ask if anything was wrong, and he replied awkwardly with a ‘sorry’ gesture.

“My apologies, Cougar-dono. I am the leader of the Knight’s Order, Blitz Rinbal”

“Commander of the Imperial Guards, Hill Rinbal”

“I am Cougar. I have nothing like a title though”

“No, by chance in the previous battle, I was able to see your fight”

“No doubt a fierce god fitting for a man of war.”

The red haired with a close crop was muscular like a boulder, Blitz and the one with his hair tied back as if he was delicate willow, Hill.

The two were opposites but their strengths were being transmitted keenly.

“Alone, there is no way that we can oppose you who is like a fierce god so, it has become that I am participating alongside my brother.”

“Please allow this, Cougar-dono. We too have a pride. Even if you say it’s cowardly facing two people, we cannot be allowed to lose”

Well, that is how royalty operates.

“Furthermore, I’d like to make an agreement”

“What is the favour, that you wish to ask in this situation”

“I acknowledge this is more than shameless. The mysterious dessert received in the waiting room. I heard that that was made by the your cook.”

It’s about Shuri huh.

“If we win, we would like to claim that chef”

…What?

“That dessert was wonderful. To the extent of mending our feud”

“Being the case, I would like to welcome the chef for him to cook in our country”

…I shut up and looked at Ganglabe.

That sign was the one to get them with all my strength.

“Alright. But,”

With my sword in an overhead stance.

“Only if you win!”

I declared.

Shuri is our family.

I won’t give him to anybody. I won’t let anyone take him.

It’s only because of his cooking that I can stand here.

Imitating something like selling out family is something I won’t do.

I won’t forgive those who want to steal him.

“…..Older Brother”

“Un, an incredible vigor. Rather it might be demon force”

Blitz and Hill both set up their swords.

Then kicking off the ground in one go separately.

Blitz reached me first, aiming with his sword, stabbing towards my throat.

“Impudence!!!”

Freely manipulating the limits of my technique and body,

placing the greatest weight on the sword,

swinging it in one breath!!

BAKIN!!

The sword swung at a speed capable of being called godspeed, hacked the opponent’s sword right in half.

“Im-impossible”

In the moment that Blitz was panicking, Hill came with a horizontal slash.

The sword was swung downwards.

Rotating from the ankles to his knees.

From knees to waist.

From waist to shoulder.

Completely following from his shoulder to his arms.

Once again ending in godspeed, chopping Hill’s sword from midway.

“N-no way”

Before the two could counterattack I drew out my small sword hanging from my waist, thrusting my swords towards both of their throats.

“Still want to continue?”

The two of them made the sign to resign.

The judge gave the signal to end.

“It’s my victory. Give up on the matter about the chef”

Without delay I give them a warning and jumped down from the stage.

Later, it was something I heard from Ganglabe.

It seems the two of them had already used magic.

It seems their sword and body abilities were strengthened but, it appears that I, who can’t use magic, came to slash through magic.

It also seems that among the chief vassals they wanted to headhunt Shuri but immediately stayed hidden after seeing my match.

Even I was surprised.

At the time, to prevent Shuri from being stolen, I used all my power and technique from my body and, that slash.

Undoubtedly the strongest full throttle slash that I can release.

At the pinnacle of my training, I was able to obtain that.

Chapter 18 - Cheesecake of Attraction (Part 3)

I have a sweet tooth.

Because ever since I was young when my father would return from his expeditions, he would always come back bringing desserts from a well-known shop.

Father coming home safely, that was happiness.

Those desserts which served as proof was always eaten to the very last piece together with my brother.

Time passed, father retired as leader of the Knight's Order safely in perfect health, and I assumed the position of the leader.

Elder brother didn't become a leader of the Knight's Order and entered the Imperial guards to become their commander.

The two of us brothers were on good terms. At least, until that time,

At that time, as a reward for our long work, together with brother, I brought over desserts and drank alcohol.

I got into an argument with my brother.

The dessert I selected or the one my brother selected, which one was tastier.

Of course we were aware of how ridiculous the fight was. But, we had something we weren't willing to give up.

Because the one I selected was the one that father had bought for us.

Brother says that the desserts from the dessert shop he found were tastier.

Feeling like he had denied my memories, I couldn't forgive him.

In the end, from then on we brothers were unable to sit around a dining table nicely.

Both of us getting married, having kids, even after the long years of getting used to our jobs as leader and commander had passed we could not recover our relationship.

Such a discord was even handed down to our subordinates.

At some point, the relationship between the Knight's Order and the Imperial Guards had become a dangerous one.

I am the leader of the Oritol Knight's Order, Blitz Rynbal.

The Oritol Knight's Order protected the streets and the management of crime and bandits during peace times, and become warring soldiers to protect our country on the front lines during times of war.

It was a position of high honour.

Even in the capital there was only four companies, and I became the the leader for all the companies, in the capital and the territories.

Although I say that, I'm not very good at desk work.

Occasionally I even mix in with my subordinates to participate in training.

Each time I would end up being scolded by my close aide but I'm popular from my subordinates.

No matter what, a superior who trains together with them is uncommon.

It's just that I like to participate in their training.

On the opposite side, Oritol Imperial Guards.

The Imperial Guards main position was to work at the castle. Being deployed as the defenses for the castle.

However, they complete their work with a few select elites, having to protect everyone, the chief vassals and originally the royalty.

Because of that each one of them are warriors capable of matching a thousand men.

It's praise for the pressure that comes from guarding royalty.

Day and night there are mysterious people or ruffians who infiltrate the castle, fighting against opponents like spies from other countries, or assassins.

The one who acts as the commander of the Imperial Guards is my elder brother, Hill Rynbal.

Me and my brother combined our magic and swordsmanship, mastering the Rynbal-ryu Magic Swordsmanship.

Making use of ways to attack with fire or wind magic, strengthening our swords with material hardening.

Furthermore adding to our secret body strengthening.

Resistance against the enemies magic with a magic barrier.

Using magic to make perfect close quarter combat as the main axis, the essence of our Rynbal-ryu is to overwhelm using our swordsmanship.

Me and my brother's skills are a rivalry.

Even that ended up spurring on the discord between the Knight's Order and Imperial Guards.

"Leader! Those guys from the Imperial Guards are making fun of us again!"

"Saying that we're just dirty servants"

"Even though those guys work in a beautiful castle and don't know the first thing about the streets"

These sorts of complaints were an everyday occurrence.

In the first place the Knight's Order was spread for believers. Extensively recruited from citizens to royalty.

However the Imperial Guards were strict, each one of them had to be recommended and pass a harsh test before they can be one.

It naturally only became even a higher position amongst royalty, and had a tendency to gather those who were even educated well.

Since that's something that can't be helped and to be able to work there they ask for some kind of education and dignity.

Anyhow they have to protect a large amount of royalty. Not knowing the implicit rules or manners of the castle might trigger some disrespect, and is a big problem.

Truthfully, there have been those among the ones recruited who couldn't understand the manners and quit. To put it bluntly, if the person isn't suitably

tough then they aren't fit for the job.

Naturally here at the Knight's Order there are also jobs where only the tough people are fit for the job. It's an everyday occurrence, skirmishes between citizens or a problematic hard struggle, there are even those who are killed with the management of illegal organisations.

Such a pissing competition has no meaning at all.

However, the neighbourhood don't consider that.

Before I noticed, the Knight's Order and the Imperial Guards are holding a trial contest.

I rushed into the Shogun's room and had a direct talk with him.

"Shogun, what is the meaning of this! Why is the Knight's Order and Imperial Guards like this!"

"This is the idea of the chief vassals and the king. We have no say in this matter"

"Like this no matter who wins, the restoration of the relationship might become even harder!"

"Watch your mouth Leader Rynbal. Are you objecting to the King's orders"

I understand that I can't do that.

I grasp my hand so bitterly that it seems blood would come out. I don't know why the king would do a plan like this.

"I understand your feelings Leader Rynbal. Truth be told, Commander Rynbal… Ah, Hill-dono also came here for a talk just like you"

"Eh?"

Brother did?

"He talked blandly of the relations growing worse and the pointlessness of the contest. Never showing his anger and talking using logic, that guy"

"Brother… was always the one to speak calmly after all"

"However, he pulled back after a certain piece of information was told"

A certain… piece of information?

“This trial contest will invite Ganglabe’s Mercenary Corp as guests and it’s been decided that Cougar-dono will participate.”

Ganglabe’s Mercenary Corp?!

A mercenary corp with the legend of having frightening combat ability.

With their participation, they were famous for winning the war which Newbyst was said to definitely lose.

And Cougar.

A peculiarly refined swordsmanship, a modern demon who manipulates Kuugaryu. A sword god who is said to kill and overturn a hundred enemies by himself.

Without using any magic, that sword which was swung said to be at times beautiful, at times wild.

I see, Cougar-dono will come.

“Hmm, As expected of brothers.

The joy of being able to fight a strong foe, you’re beaming”

What?

Trying to touch it, indeed my cheek muscles were loosening up.

“Fighting a strong foe. That is the mission given to the Rynbal family.

Despite that will you forfeit?”

“No, please let me do it”

After leaving the Shogun’s office I immediately returned to the training grounds.

Throwing off all the clothes for government work, I changed into training wear and earnestly made an effort to train with my subordinate as an opponent.

Then the appointed day.

I wore my favourite sword and armour and waited in the waiting room.

The waiting room for the Knight's Order and the Imperial Guards were prepared separately, you can feel the consideration around this matter.

The contest right now is roughly 50-50.

The subordinates of the Knight's Order too acknowledged the opponent's strength.

It's a good habit. It'll be good if the other side would also think like that though.

"Leader, it's almost time"

"Ah, with the results of the fight between me and my brother, it'll decide who will be the one to fight against Cougar-dono"

"Please win!"

"Naturally. No need to worry"

"Ah, that's right. Leader, you like desserts right?"

What is it, so sudden?

"To be honest it's the other side's cook, and the chief vassal and king. Not just that, it seems they are treating everyone participating with dessert.

This is leader's share."

What he took out as he said that was something which looked like a cake.

However the material was vastly different.

A dessert combining light yellow and brown triangles.

What is this?

"It seems to be a dessert made from cheese"

"Cheese? This is"

Speaking of cheese, it accompanies alcohol.

Drinking it with wine, the flavours spread throughout your mouth.

"It doesn't seem like any poison has been added, I'll have some"

"Yes. This was really good"

Hoh, then I’m looking forward to it.

Holding the plate I received with one hand, using a spoon to cut through to the base and moved it to me mouth.

I paused.

What is this? Is this really cake!?

What spread through my mouth was indeed a flavour of cheese. But there’s also something I don’t know in it.

I get that that’s the secret to the sweetness but, I still don’t understand what that is.

Then I was surprised.

By the fact that this doesn’t use that much sugar.

It was something that famous dessert shops would definitely use, sugar. As a high class seasoning, I believed that only by using a large amount of it is the real pleasure of desserts.

However what about this. A harmony brought forth by the natural sweetness of cheese and an orderly arrangement of sugar.

Even as the viscous substance spreads through my mouth it wasn’t too rich.

The inside of my mouth was constantly melting, the aftertaste was wonderful.

Most likely, there is probably a secret in the base.

It’s mixed with cookie.

However this cookie. It’s not just that.

The flavour and texture is the same but, it’s something completely different. Comparing it with the cookies that I know, this one wins by a world of difference.

After eating this together with the top, the rich taste beautifully melts down.

It’s a wonderful dessert. More so than the dessert that I eat.

That’s when I noticed.

That time, brother was saying that the dessert he was holding is tasty.

I was the one wrong feeling angry that he had soiled my memories.

Brother was holding the dessert that he had confirmed with his eyes and tongue.

That was something not from father but something he had earned as an individual and chose by himself.

He was bringing it as a sign of independence.

How stupid could I have been.

The one who was pathetic, holding onto the past was me.

“Ah, Leader, where are you going!?”

I can’t sit still, eating the entire dessert I started running.

I have to apologize.

To brother, for ridiculing the dessert which was brother’s resolve to live independently.

Without knowing of brother’s resolve, it was my fault clamoring just like a child.

Rushing into the waiting room for the Imperial Guards, brother was eating his dessert all by himself.

Not even surprised at me entering the room, quietly placing the plate onto the table.

“Blitz? I was also thinking of meeting with you”

“Brother, I-”

“That day, the dessert that you brought was the dessert from our memories right”

Brother quietly talked.

“I, remembered after having the fight with you. That that was the dessert that father would buy back every time as a souvenir.

But, I thought admitting fault after shouting like that and apologizing is pathetic so, needless to say I brought up my dignity.

In the end, without even making up. We both married, and even had children. I gave up thinking that we could never restore our relationship But then this dessert.”

“Brother…”

“The desserts that I had thought was delicious were in the end nothing more than clumps of sugar.

But, the dessert that you brought were more than just delicious.

Memories. Pleasant memories pulled up the taste of that dessert.

Indeed, the tastes of childhood is something irreplaceable”

“No. I wasn’t able to see brother’s resolve.

Clinging to my memories, I didn’t realise brother was walking forward, standing with your own feet.

The one at fault is me. That’s why”

I bow,

“I’m sorry!”

I was finally able to apologize.

“If it’s like that, then I too must apologize.

Sorry. Blitz”

It felt like tears would fall.

Not because brother was lowering his head and apologizing to me.

It’s because once again, after several decades he has called out my name.

Absolutely, happy.

“Blitz, I was thinking of forfeiting the contest between us”

“W-why brother”

“Listen. There is already no reason for us to fight. Even this contest was held for the sake of resolving the conflicts between each other.

In that case, since the two of us brothers have reconciled. There’s no need for

us to fight”

Exactly. That’s exactly right.

This very contest’s purpose was to restore our relationship.

In that case, it doesn’t hold anymore meaning since we have already restored it.

“Rather than that Blitz. This dessert was truly delicious”

“What’s up suddenly?”

“Well about the cook who made this. Don’t you think of wanting him”

Seeing my brother grinning shadily, I realised his intention.

“I see. If we combine our strengths”

“We could even win against Cougar-dono. At that time it’ll be fine to take the cook”

We console the contest judge and so now it’s our common goal to fight with Cougar-dono.

Standing next to each other on that stage, it really reminds me of that time.

It was fun, my childhood.

While I was thinking of that, Cougar-dono appeared in front of us.

A person with a thin frame. Indeed he is rather handsome but, I can’t see him being a person capable to achieving a hundred kills at all.

However, we can’t be careless.

The vigor released from this person. Isn’t it overwhelming.

“My apologies, Cougar-dono. I am the leader of the Knight’s Order, Blitz Rinbal”

“Commander of the Imperial Guards, Hill Rinbal”

“I am Cougar. I have nothing like a title though”

“No, by chance in the previous battle, I was able to see your fight”

“No doubt a fierce god fitting for a man of war.”

That’s right, even though I’m in doubt I’ve seen it.

At that fight, taking up the position right in the middle of the battlefield, the overwhelming strength of Cougar-dono slaying enemies indifferently.

“Alone, there is no way that we can oppose you who is like a fierce god so, it has become that I am participating alongside my brother.”

“Please allow this, Cougar-dono. We too have a pride. Even if you say it’s cowardly facing two people, we cannot be allowed to lose”

The leader of the Knight’s Order and the commander of the Imperial Guards.

Since these two are fighting for the same cause, without fail they must win this battle.

“Furthermore, I’d like to make an agreement”

“What is the favour, that you wish to ask in this situation”

“I acknowledge this is more than shameless. The mysterious dessert received in the waiting room. I heard that that was made by the your cook.”

“If we win, we would like to claim that chef”

“That dessert was wonderful. To the extent of mending our feud”

“Being the case, I would like to welcome your chef to cook for our country”

At that moment, Cougar-dono’s haki swelled up.

This is blood-thirst. I could sense the terrible pressure.

This is the vigor of the man of a hundred kills!

“Alright. But”

Cougar-dono raises his sword overhead.

“Only if you win!”

He gave his verdict.

“…..Older Brother”

“Un, an incredible vigor. Rather it might be demon force”

Me and my brother both get in stance.

Rynbal-ryu Magic Sword style, Demon Raising.

Strengthening our body's abilities and our sword, a basic technique of Rynbal-ryu.

I was the first to kick off the ground.

From behind, the feeling of my feet disappears from the ground, aiming a lunge at Cougar-dono's throat.

Rynbal-ryu Zeppuuka. (TL: Absolute Wind Thrust)

Releasing all my power thrusting at one point intensively, the fastest attack of Rynbal-ryu.

If you can dodge it then show me!

"Impudence!!!"

That one word.

Cougar-dono's word.

Instantly, the sword which was supposed to be over his head disappears.

BAKIN!!

The sword swung at a speed which can be called godspeed hacked my sword right in half.

"Im-impossible"

With a speed faster than my fastest lunge, Cougar-dono had slashed downwards.

It was just that. However it wasn't normal.

Vanishing without a reflection from my sight, not knowing when and without any feedback, my sword which had been strengthened with magic was bisected.

There's no way!

From my frantic side brother attacks.

Rynbal-ryu Naginagare. (TL: Weed Cutter)

A vicious attack where in fact in moment of sweeping the sword horizontally,

the trajectory can be changed to either up or down.

Having already released the technique, it should hit Cougar-dono.

However, I saw it.

The power flow springing forth from Cougar-dono's ankle, transmitting to the sword with absolutely no hesitation.

That result. With an upward slash that also held the speed of god, brother's sword was bisected.

"N-no way"

In the space of time where we had lost our weapons.

Cougar-dono made sure of it, drawing out his short sword, pointing the two swords at our throats.

"Still want to continue?"

There's no way we could keep continuing.

Losing our weapons, our life and death at the other's mercy.

We could only surrender.

"It's my victory. Give up on the matter about the chef"

At the end Cougar-dono gave us a warning,

and jumped off from the stage.

In the end it ended with our loss.

After we were reprimanded by the Shogun but, looking at us he seemed to be relieved.

Like it was good that we restored our relationship.

Later, after as practice to unite the Knight's Order and Imperial Guards, a banquet was opened.

Although a lot of things happened at the contest, seeing me and my brother's bond, slowly the hostility is softening.

As expected a superior's attitude can even negatively affect subordinates, was

what I had learnt.

After that, our respective families even deepened their friendships.

Meeting with our wife and kids, even the chances to have friendly talks increased.

“Do you know, Blitz. Apart from us, I heard the chief vassals maneuvered to headhunt that cook.”

“What? Really”

“Ah, but looking at our contest, it seems they lost that motivation. They wouldn’t know what sort of revenge would wait for them if they performed some dodgy business with that way too abnormal mercenary corp as an opponent.

That’s true, I agreed.

Cougar-dono’s strength was abnormal. It indeed surpasses humanity.

In the early morning we were training.

I don’t want to lose like that anymore.

Naturally, I won’t forget that dessert.

Just that not being able to eat that Cheesecake is disappointing.

Oritol’s trial contest remained as an event in history.

It was where the ultimate technique of Kuugaryu Gouken Style was awakened.

Ougi・ Amanedachi (TL: Ultimate Technique・Heaven Severer) An ultimate technique worthy of Gouken Style, it was just swinging your sword, displaying your body’s capabilities and body manipulation to the maximum.

However what happens when those learning Kuugaryu are required to display their maximum capabilities.

The result is, it becomes a strong sword completely cutting through swords and armour.

Cougar Yanagi gained that insight in this contest, mastering it at the end of his training.

The founder’s Heaven Severer, if swung on the battlefield is said to be a sword capable of even splitting the clouds in the sky.

The opponent’s Rynbal-ryu Magic Sword Style later closed it’s doors, and slowly came to a close in history.

However, that Magic Sword Style was included into Kuugaryu, preserving it’s thread of life.

Chapter 19 - Curry Rice of Anger (Part 1)

(Author Note: It's Valentines but, there won't be much about chocolates. It will appear though.)

Cougar-san's efforts were terrific.

On the battlefield he was like a demon cutting through the enemy's swords and armours.

I just don't get how people get motivated and have their talents blossom. Rather, what the heck is motivation?

Those infantry who see motivation and have courage, reach a point where they are sent to the front lines. But no one says it would be good if they can come back safe and sound. That isn't too good right.

It's Shu~ri. Right now it's around the time where there's a lot of foods I want to make. Eh, I'm lax? That's how I am in the first place.

After Mapo Tofu and Cheesecake, I decided what I wanted to make. Something I couldn't make until now due to a lack of ingredients and knowledge.

Right, Curry.

The peculiar combination of the spices were sent day after day during hard struggles of ill-gotten money. So Cosmo. Is that how it goes?

Naturally I eat my own failures. However that had a negative effect.

Even if it's a failure, curry is curry. The devilish fragrance that tickles at your nostrils as I was experimenting with it during the night summoned Ahrius-san in the background.

"Ahrius-san, what are you doing there?"

I tried calling out to her but, there was no response. Even though I caught her she won't give up!

Even though your body is jutting out from under the tree's shadow, what are you being so stubborn for!

By the way I only called out to Ahrius-san but, on top of the tree was Teg-san,

far away was Cougar-san, I don't know how she did it but Riru-san was underground. Most likely, she dug a hole to hide in.

And then in a nearby tent several units were crowding, not pressing upon the tent to listen but wholeheartedly waiting with a sniffing nose. Sniffing nose, this is the first time I've used this word.

"Hmm, as expected making the curry powder is hard…"

Compounding the curry powder. This is the main reason.

Normally how it goes is you fry the ingredients, add in water to boil, which is when you add the roux. Which reminds me I don't know the method for making roux. But the thing is combining it with roux changes the flavour.

"Ahh… it's no good again…"

I failed once again.

There's not enough colour or thickness. It feels like an incomplete soup curry.

There's still some way to go before I understand the best compound for curry powder.

I still need to do a little more research huh.

The curry I failed, of course I have to eat myself.

I only made enough for one so it was easy to clean up.

However, the people behind me seem to want to eat some.

I won't let you eat it. There's no way I can allow them to eat something like a failed product.

I serve my dish and eat.

Hm, it's not sweet enough. The thickness too.

I can't cook it to an acceptable level…

""""Ahh~…..!!!""""

I can hear screams but I ignore it.

Let's be a little mean.

“When I called out earlier there was no response so~, since there’s no one here there’s no need to be feeding anyone then~”

The trees and grounds trembled slightly.

Are they mad?

“Well, earlier was just a failed product anyway. There’s no way I can let you eat it anyway~”

Just in case let’s follow up on that.

The battle this time wasn’t a battle.

How should I say this, we were elected as negotiators.

The place was a field of snow. It was the place where last year Ahrius-san melted the entire snow mountain.

Somehow I even thought that we had returned to the same place last year but I couldn’t make fun of that because fate tied to me to a place like this.

Speaking of which my fate is, how should I say this, coincidental. I wonder why I’m in this other world?

There’s no use even if I think about it so I just continue walking the snow-covered road.

“Ganglabe-san, what’s the goal of the negotiations this time?”

“I’ll tell you if you let me eat the dish you keep trying to make every evening”

Ga-Ganglabe-san?!

Did you have that kind of personality?!

The light like insanity living in your eyes, that’s not what you should be doing!

“That still needs a little more before it’s finished, please wait”

“Alright then. This time is negotiations for magic crystals. Alturia, while being a snowy country, has gathered a large amount of magic crystals. It’s one large industry”

Magic crystals are the catalysts for magic and magic engineering, I hear it’s the paint material for writing Magi Spell with magic engineering.

Magic power gathering in a nature abundant area seems to crystallize into a substance. That is magic crystal.

Amongst Riru-chan's inventions is Ahrius-san's wand. These also need magic crystals.

Magic Engineering is temporary, but if you use magic crystals to create a Magi Spell you can use it semi-permanently.

It seems to be consumed if you continue to use magic. Simply speaking, using magic will cause the magic crystals wear down and die. The power usage is probably massive.

And, since the amount is getting low, it means it's time to replenish.

Which was the plan.

"There's no magic crystals to be sold to savages like you. Leave"

Immediately after the audience with the feudal lord, I hated him with absolute detest.

During the audience the fat parent and son pair were acting so arrogant. So irritating. Being looked down on by pigs is annoying me.

"Please do something about that. It's necessary for our work. As for compensation"

"Right. I'll sell it if those two girls there are given as my son's slave bitches."

Crash. The most annoying thing has come.

Slave bitches, this is the first time I've heard of such a word. This kind of thing just makes your anger boil up doesn't it.

"Papa, I don't want to embrace those country bimbos"

"It's alright son. They'll be properly sterilized with medicine, ok"

Snap.

The menservants were able to hear it.

Teg-san's neck stood on end.

Cougar-san's haki became like a demons.

The vigor I could feel from Ganglabe-san was like a lion, and felt like it had dominated this space.

Eh, me? At best my haki will come out like a cat. Hiss~, I'll growl!!

"Hn?"

While I was like that I saw the scene of that fat son eating candy.

"That is…"

I've seen that before.

I've seen it in manga, and its use.

That's right, chocolate.

Somehow it seems that over here chocolate has already been developed, and it's even been spread all the way to this snowy country.

"Well that's it. I'll give those girls to my son, even though they stink of the countryside they'll do"

"… That's"

"Ganglabe…"

Suddenly I realise, the teary Ahrius-san and Ganglabe-san whose shoulders were shaking with anger.

Why doesn't he just immediately refuse and leave?

Ganglabe-san.

Between the woman you love and an object, there should be no comparison right?

"Well well, excuse me for a sec"

Here is where I'll be the clown.

Let's stop kneeling.

I don't like being looked down by these people.

"What is it you"

"I am the cook of Ganglabe's Mercenary Corp, my name is Shuri.

Excuse me but one thing.

The fascinating candy that the prince is eating, where exactly did you get it”

The king and prince furrow their brows. They’re probably annoyed.

“…At Newbyst. What about it”

“No no, just making sure”

I see. Over there. Next time it’ll be easy to get.

Most likely, you can get cocoa and sugarcane in the forest over there?

I don’t know the specifics but, let me make use of this right now.

“For one thing, won’t you let me make you something to eat”

“Why must I let a bumpkin cook like you to make something for us to eat.”

“No no, it’s the prince’s candy.

Let me change that into a captivating dish which surpasses that.”

“A captivating dish, you say”

Oh, they took the bait.

This fat father and son pair. I thought that they would take the bait if it was about food.

“Yes, potato, carrots, spring onions and meat. That’s all I need.

Let me show you a dish which taste so much better than the candy with just that”

“…Interesting. Having a meal with chocolate and that? Fine show me.

If it tastes bad, I’ll cut off both those arms”

“As you wish. In that case I’ll start preparing”

There’s no way I can lose.

After preparing the ingredients, Let’s Cooking.

To be honest it is possible to combine curry and chocolate.

Chewing at the chocolate a little bit, I see, I can use it, this chocolate.

I even got a hint of curry powder. I understood after seeing the chocolate.

Basically, it's no good if it's just spices. Naturally, I found out the combination of spices at the end of my training. However, to make the curry from Japan there is still a little something which needs to be added.

Putting in a tiny bit of butter, adding thickness and sweetness with the flour, taking care of the flavour with bouillon.

I had found an acceptable combination of thickness and sweetness with my research and practice.

That's when I add a single chocolate, making it bubble.

Putting on a lid, it was done after boiling it a little.

Back when I made the Cream Stew, I had made it so it was just edible for the time being, just something that I could eat it, but not Curry.

"…What is that disgusting looking dish."

The King was moving backwards. He had only seen the cooking process.

Not to be rude but, this is a Japanese curry extremely popular from adults to children.

"Now now, just try one"

"…Well, alright I guess"

Kukuku. It seems you fell into my trap.

The moment the lid opened, everyone here was dominated by the smell.

Ahh, such a good smell.

"This is…"

The king and prince were both surprised as they sniff the smell.

That's right. Because even the smell of Handmade Curry Roux is able to be obsessed over.

The commanders behind me. It's the smell that you all smelled every night right?

"Please"

“Al-alright”

Serving it on a dish then giving it to him, the king ate it without any hesitation. Don’t be testing for poison.

“This is!!!?”

The king opens his eyes in surprise.

“That right. The hand I use my knife with isn’t something to be thrown away right”

“U, uguu…!!”

Satisfied I show off my knife a little.

While the king seems to be annoyed, he didn’t say it tasted bad.

Of course, there’s no way that you can say this dish tastes bad.

“Please, the prince as well”

“Alright!”

The prince ate with glittering eyes.

“Delicious! Chocolates can become this delicious!”

“Well, thank you for that”

“Papa. Rather than those girls I want this cook!”

“T-that’s…”

The king seriously didn’t want to meet eyes.

“This can be done by combining this powder and chocolate. I can give it you”

“Really?!!”

“In exchange though, I want magic crystals”

“Papa!”

“S-silence.

…What is your goal”

I was being glared outright by the king but I wasn’t scared.

Maybe if he was to stop eating the Curry.

“I already said it, the magic crystals.

Please sell them at the market price”

“…I understand.

In exchange, ignore the invitation that my son just gave to you”

Eh? Was there such a bargaining chip?

“Alright, I won’t mind”

Just like this, Magic Crystals Get.

As we were leaving.

Everyone was saying ‘How nice, how nice’ but I don’t agree.

As we left towards our campsite from the castle, I had to do something.

“Ganglabe-san”

“Ah, Shuri. You saved us-!?”

I punched him.

Although it was at best a sting.

Even this person’s face was hard.

“Why didn’t you refuse immediately?

Between the person you love and some rocks, which is more important?!

It shouldn’t be something you think about until you make her cry!!”

After saying that I immediately returned to camp.

The commanders behind us were dazed but they prepared to go back.

After that, night time passed as I was feeling nervous.

After all I hit the leader. I might even be fired.

What should I do. If I get fired, I have no one to rely on or a job.

I can only go to Newbyst, no no, I can’t return being so pretentious.

Just like that I was feeling depressed.

The next day.

For some reason Ganglabe-san thanked me with a refreshed look.

“Thanks to you I realised what is important. Thank you”

That’s great. I didn’t get fired.

And then it seems that he officially accepted Ahrius-san as his wife.

This is so precious, I want to hold a wedding ceremony.

I should plan this in advance.

Chapter 20 - Curry Rice of Anger (Part 2)

To me, Ganglabe is the person I love the most in the world.

Since we first met, countless battles and time has passed.

Fighting to protect and be protected.

From your back, you always provide me with courage.

From your hand that holds mine, I feel warm and safe.

However, the person I love might one day at any moment have something happen to him.

The fear of separation has made me forget a certain thing.

Even though the most important things are always close next to me.

I, Ahrius have a fiancee.

Right now he hasn't suggested a wedding yet but, he'll suggest it one day.

That person is Ganglabe.

Recently one of our equipment, the magic crystals, their stocks are strange and it's boggling me.

Magic crystals are sediments formed naturally from the abundance of mana in the atmosphere or are otherwise left in a place naturally long ago, which are then crystallized.

It has a strange quality given that it absorbs the surrounding mana otherwise amplifying it.

Magic engineering make use of that absorption quality, using it as materials for Magi Spell. They do this because, doing so will allow for a semi permanence mana absorption function. However this ends once the Magi Spell disappears. Because of this things like rain is a powerful enemy.

Using it to amplify by adding your own mana to the mana absorbed with magic, it raises your magic's firepower. Using this quality will wear the magic crystal, gradually extinguishing and losing the function. It's different from gems because it gradually gets smaller before disappearing in the end.

And my magic allows for the interference of atoms and molecules. The consumption is large so the magic crystals disappear after a short while.

So for the sake of replenishment we journey towards Alturia.

Alturia by itself is not a big country. Because in addition to being a snow country, their food self-support is not good and they are not blessed with trees.

It's just that they have wealthy mineral and gem resources.

Furthermore they do not have to worry about running out like Yuyubi. Naturally, the iron and copper may run out eventually.

The industry which does best here is, magic crystals.

Magic crystals can only be taken from places where it is naturally in abundance or is naturally dense but here, if you dig you'll find as many as you want. Additionally in that situation the magic crystals in the mining shafts are restored in a week.

It is most likely due to this continent's mana flowing from one place to another and settling in this place but, anyhow because of that that was how Alturia was established as a country.

Of course, because of that land their magic and magic engineering techniques are top quality.

During that journey, Shuri was making something mysterious.

When I first noticed, it was when I sleeping at night and a delicious smell from something somewhere something reached me tent.

However, that night I just continued to sleep. Perhaps because I thought that it was so cold my senses of smell was becoming weird.

The next night, and the night after. After this continued for several days, I realised that, isn't this a bit strange.

Following the origin of the scent, I crashed and came across Riru.

"Riru. What's wrong, it's so late"

"I can smell something good. A charming smell capable of matching Hamburg Steak"

This kid, isn't she slowly treating the world as if it's just hamburg steak?

I have to warn Shuri about this next time. Do something about that junkie, or something.

Swinging around behind Shuri's tent, he was making something with the pot.

"Is it that?"

"No doubt about it. Riru can feel it too. That is truly, the companion to Hamburg Steak"

The words of a junkie.

However, what is this fragrance.

How should I say, such a savoury smell…

Just the smell makes me feel like I'm full.

"What do you think that is?"

"It must be the new Hamburg dish. Riru's Justice(intuition) is shouting out"

(TL: It seems her justice keeps changing, so i'll put the kanji in brackets next to it)

Let's just ignore Riru's slightly strange appearance. I'll lose if I care about it.

Looking from afar I can see a soup. It looks sort of brown.

I can also see potatos and carrots but I can say any more than that.

"Become like my Justice(instinct)! Shuri, what are you doing"

Riru performed a suicide attack. When I noticed, she wasn't next to me.

"Ah Riru-san. Sorry. Did it stink?"

"No, it was a good smell. Fragrant. And, what is that?"

"This? Just a little something new, I couldn't make it up till now maybe because I didn't have enough ability or knowledge"

"I'll help sample"

Ah! Riru, that's not fair!

I want to eat it as well!

“I’m sorry, the one I made today was a failure. It isn’t something for people to eat.”

Shuri looked sorry and laughed bitterly.

How surprising. Shuri failing his dish.

Grabbing hold of the subordinates and teaching them, cooking dinner for everyone, that Shuri, does everything perfectly with no mistakes.

I haven’t seen something like a failed work from him, he has never delayed dinner because of a failure.

Despite this, it’s rare for him to fail from the trial stages.

“I won’t mind. Riru’s Justice(stomach) is telling me to eat it”

Isn’t Riru’s use of Justice fundamentally wrong?

“No, I’ll let you after I can make it properly. Until then please wait”

Towards Shuri smiling as he gently refused, I felt that this is impossible.

That face of Shuri’s is saying that he won’t let us eat it no matter what.

Rather than being surprisingly stubborn, it’s more like Shuri who’s obsessed with food won’t allow that to pass.

It was near time for me to leave, and I left that place behind.

However, the next day, and the day after that, Shuri continued his trial and error.

At first I had left it alone. Thinking that it’ll be done soon and I can eat it so, well I’ll wait.

However, no matter how long had passed, he didn’t produce the completed product.

Night after night, a delicious smell wafts by.

After dinner I fell into a feeling like I was hungry again.

Finally, I hid under the shadow of the tree so I could go and sample at any time.

It seems that everyone else was the same.

Before I realised, Teg was on top of the tree.

“What are you doing Teg”

“Ah, well, I’m just doing a little long distance vision exercise on top of the tree, su”

His eyes were totally swimming as he let out that excuse.

I mean, there’s no point in doing long distance vision exercises in the middle of the night on top of a tree.

Before I noticed, Riru was underground.

Somehow it seems like using magic engineering she dug a hole, waiting for an opportunity.

“Riru. What are you doing?”

“Riru isn’t here. Riru is not here”

Even if you gave an excuse, you have your way of speaking.

Noticing a presence, Cougar was swinging his sword far away.

If it was just that then it’s obvious it was just ordinary practice.

However from the movements of the wind, his thoughts were obvious, wanting to smell the fragrance by continuing to train downwind of Shuri.

“Cougar, are you training again”

“Ah, cause I still have a long way to go”

“If you go over there, there’s a watering place and the footing should be good though”

“Ah, well, I feel like doing it here. Hahahahaha”

So forced.

Naturally, I was peeping through the shadow of the tree.

On top of the trees or under the ground or going downwind is too much.

Besides, a civilian like Shuri probably can’t do something like sense our presence.

“Ahrius-san. What are you doing over there?”

I was caught!?

N-no, there’s no way.

Most likely, he thinks I’m in the tent together with the subordinates and is trying to trick me, there’s no doubt about it.

“Hmm, as expected making the curry powder is hard…”

Oh? The direction the wind’s blowing is strange.

“Ahh… it’s no good again…”

W-what!?

If Shuri fails then he eats it by himself and cleans up.

He won’t allow others to eat his failed works.

I get that but, it’s fine if it’s a failure, I want to eat it, even one bite is fine.

As I was thinking that, Shuri serves the failed work onto his plate.

Then eats it himself.

“””Ahh~…..!!!”””

Without thinking sounds of disappointment were let out.

Everyone synchronised together so there’s no doubt that everyone holds the same feelings.

Ah, I wanted to eat some.

“When I called out earlier there was no response so~, since there’s no one here there’s no need to be feeding anyone then~”

W-what was that!?

Shuri monologue, basically said he found out about us.

D-does that mean if we had replied, we could’ve eaten?!

Ah, the ground, tree and tent is shaking.

They’re angry….

It seems I can see hell tomorrow….

“Well, earlier was just a failed product anyway. There’s no way I can let you eat it anyway~”

Shuri added a follow but, that isn’t enough as a follow up!

In the end, without letting us try it afterwards, we continued on marching.

Ganglabe casually got him to agree to promise a sample taste but, I couldn’t say anything other than unfair.

However, even that thought.

Ended up becoming a complete blank during the audience.

“There are no magic crystals to be sold to savages like you. Leave”

During the audience, the King, Flu’re Alturia said to us.

During the luxurious and gorgeous audience, just as us five commanders and Shuri combined arrived at the negotiation place, Flu’re-dono told us straight up.

Indeed last year, because we were on the opposition side of the battle, there’s no denying the feelings of hostility.

However, we couldn’t have imagined that we couldn’t even talk let alone negotiate.

It’s an obvious fact but, if mercenaries are hired with money they swear allegiance to whoever paid, assisting them for the sake of victory. Due to that, they have a friendly allegiance during the time they are hired as well as a hostile relationship.

Basically, saying it badly we are no different from merchants who sell military power. Those merchants being opponents, it’s obvious that even talking is out of the question.

Naturally, the magic crystals sold here are circulated around here, and might make this country hostile but, even then these words and manner of speaking is just too much.

However I wonder if Ganglabe expected this, he is calm.

Given that Shuri doesn’t know this from that he was in a daze. Well, in this

place if he can just stay like that it'll help.

"Please do something about that. It's necessary for our work. As for compensation"

"Right. I'll sell it if those two girls there are given as my son's slave bitches."

…Haa?

What exactly is this person talking about?

To be a slave bitch for this father and son pair of fat pigs?

"Papa, I don't want to embrace those country bimbos"

"It's alright son. They'll be properly sterilized with medicine, ok"

Snap.

Everyone here made a sound as if they snapped.

Teg-san's nape stood on end, Cougar's haki surged, and Ganglabe's anger was as if had dominated this space.

Riru was indifferent. While expressionless.

No, this is her holding down and condensing all the anger inside of her.

This is what Shuri said before, the wave of killing intent thing.

Naturally, I was angry as well.

Because if I don't look at everyone objectively then, my mana might go wild while I was being sentiment.

Somehow I could feel the presence of a cat from Shuri but… was that just my imagination?

"King, Flu're-sama. What you said is a little damaging to your good image. If the surrounding royalty or feudal lords were to know, how would they look at you"

Even up to now Ganglabe was trying his best to be calm, trying to continue the negotiations.

However Flu're-dono would not stop his vulgar smile.

“If it’s like that, it’s fine to just stop the sale of magic crystals to that territory.

In this territory, there are just that many resources after all”

Ganglabe clicked his tongue a little.

Indeed that’s how it was, magic crystals are an indispensable resource in this day and age.

This area which is able to mine in large amounts without exhausting can be said to be precious.

If you negotiate with that, no matter which country it is, will find it difficult to refute.

However, I’m suspicious of his nerves which intentionally talk of this area.

“Papa. The little girl with the thin figure is good.”

“Hm, I won’t mind having that girl over there”

Me?!

Me becoming that sort of person’s mistress?!

“It’s decided. If you send that girl over there here then for ten times the market price, I’ll sell you half the amount, it’s not bad right?”

D-don’t joke around.

Such a negotiation is unnecessary. It’s better to just leave immediately.

However Ganglabe endures his anger and somehow continues the negotiations.

That’s praiseworthy but….

To be honest, I want to say that the reason we’re angry here is because of me.

I understand. If we can’t get magic crystals here then in the future it’ll be troublesome.

In other places there are even places which can’t sell it.

Getting it in this territory where it sells with stability, is the most efficient.

“That’s too excessive… even if it’s a joke I can’t laugh”

“There’s no need to laugh. You want magic crystals right? This is also a negotiation”

However, the responsibilities as a leader and.

The position as my fiancee.

As if it was hanging on a balance, I felt like crying.

“Well that’s that. I’ll give those girls to my son, even though they stink of the countryside they’ll do”

“… That’s”

“Ganglabe…”

So angry his shoulders were shaking, Ganglabe.

Somehow holding it back with reason but.

At this rate I don’t know when he’ll explode.

“Well well, excuse me for a sec”

At that time.

Suddenly, Shuri stood up and started to act as if he was a clown.

Given that it was so sudden I couldn’t prepare anything, neither I nor anyone else couldn’t do anything to stop him.

Teg somehow reached out his hand to try stop him but it was impossible.

“What is it you”

Flu’re-dono also at his sudden rude actions, brought together the wrinkles at this brows.

It’s obvious. If you take such an attitude to a feudal lord, then even if they cut your head off you can’t complain.

“I am the cook of Ganglabe’s Mercenary Corp, my name is Shuri.

Excuse me but one thing.

The fascinating candy that the prince is eating, where exactly did you get it”

Candy?

What is Shuri talking of all of a sudden?

Indeed the prince is eating a strange candy but… what about it I wonder?

"…At Newbyst. What about it"

"No no, just making sure"

Newbyst?

What exactly did Shuri want to confirm?

"For one thing, won't you let me make you something to eat"

What is he saying all of a sudden, Shuri?

Did he plan on switching from the negotiations to a cooking diplomacy.

It's true if it's Shuri's skill, it's possible he can break down this situation.

"Why must I let a bumpkin cook like you to make something for us to eat."

Exactly, it's just like the annoyed Flu're-dono says.

The food of royalty, isn't something a cook of mercenary corp can make.

In the case of Newbyst, given that it was something the royalty wanted there were no questions about it but, using that scenario in this situation is closer to impossible.

I wonder where Shuri's absolute confidence comes from?

"No no, it's the prince's candy.

Let me change that into a captivating dish which surpasses that."

Everyone of us commanders. Looked at each other perplexed.

Making a dish with candy? I understand if you make candy using candy but… With candy? A captivating dish?

"A captivating dish, you say"

However Flu're-dono took the bait.

An obvious appetite.

However, I think I also want to know.

What will he make with that brown candy.

“Yes, potato, carrots, spring onions and meat. That’s all I need.

Let me show you a dish which taste so much better than the candy with just that”

Eh? Could it be those ingredients….

“…Interesting. Having a meal with chocolate and that? Fine show me.

If it tastes bad, I’ll cut off both those arms”

“As you wish. In that case I’ll start preparing”

Cutting off both arms?!

How preposterous. All of a sudden it became a cooking showdown.

Even Ganglabe’s face is becoming pale. Of course. Because if he loses, then it’s possible everyone here will have to receive that punishment.

Right now, our lives are in both of Shuri’s hands.

And just like that, Shuri started cooking.

Bringing out the knife he carried and the portable stove, borrowing a pot and a cutting board, and evenly cutting up the spring onions, carrots and potatoes into appropriate sizes.

I have a bad feeling. So absurd.

And then, sure enough he started to fry the spices he had hiddenly brought.

As expected it’s the dish he made every night, and he plans to make it here! Adding candy to that dish?!

Previously Shuri has a record of making a dish which has all the taste senses but, still adding candy to cooking is a bit!?

Just like that, he adds the butter and flour making the soup base, exchanging the pot with one with a deeper bottom and starts frying it.

Heating it for ten minutes, he tosses water in to boil, adding in the soup base and the candy, then closed the lid.

“…What is that disgusting looking dish.”

Flu’re-dono asked with a dubious expression.

To be honest from far away, furthermore seeing it only at night time I didn’t know but, I hadn’t thought that the soup would be that brown.

Looks… sorta dirty.

“Now now, just try one”

“…Well, alright I guess”

Confirming that it has been heated for ten minutes, Shuri opened the pot lid full of confidence.

Instantly. A wonderful fragrance had spread throughout the entire room.

The intensity of the spices and the slight sweetness, a smell which can only be smelled when the ingredients are prepared perfectly.

Without thinking Teg’s throat sounded, Cougar wiped his saliva, Ganglabe opened his eyes wide in surprise.

Riru was muttering “Hamburg… surely it’s Hamburg steak…” It might already be too late. There’s someone here who looks just like a junkie.

I, imagined the flavour of the dish from that fragrance.

Is it sweet? Is it spicy? The intensiveness of the spices inside the sweetness like melting candy. Or is there something else…?

It’s violent. Soon this fragrance can only be called violent.

The overwhelming difference in war potential I had once felt in war.

Here was something which was even more unreasonably violent than that.

I mean, because here we aren’t allowed to eat it.

While Flu’re-dono and the prince eat, we can only watch and count our fingers.

“This is…”

Flu’re-dono is completely surprised. The prince too, had glittery eyes.

“Please”

“Al-alright”

The dish that was handed to him, Flu’re-dono didn’t even test for poison and immediately ate it.

Normally this wouldn’t be possible.

The reason why is, obviously because of the thought that the dish made by a mere cook might have poison in it.

Even if you say he prepared it in front of you, it’s possible that it was mixed it with the spices. Rather, that’s what should happen in this situation. Because if you use some hallucinogens or obedience medicine then it’s even possible to get out of this place.

However, Flu’re-dono couldn’t even embrace that thought. It was a fragrance conceived with just such an attractive appeal. And with a strange appearance which musters up a strong curiosity.

With those expectant feelings, Flu’re-dono was chewing.

“This is!!!?”

Flu’re-dono’s eyes opened to their limits and the hand in which he held the spoon was shaking.

How surprising was that taste? How does it taste I wonder?

The ones looking from over here couldn’t imagine it at all.

However we couldn’t wipe away the truth that, cooking using candy, he had created a captivating dish.

That is indeed, exactly as Shuri had said.

“That right. The hand I use my knife with isn’t something to be thrown away right”

“U, uguu…!!”

Saying that, Shuri was flaunting his knife.

Ah, that’s dangerous. If that incurs the anger of the imperial guards, it’ll be taken away!

Actually taking out an edged weapon in front of the feudal lord!

“Please, the prince as well”

“Alright!”

The fat prince also received a plate and his eyes immediately sparkled.

“Delicious! Chocolates can become this delicious!”

“Well, thank you for that”

“Papa. Rather than those girls I want this cook!”

“T-that’s…”

? What’s wrong. Flu’re-dono’s eyes were swimming.

After seeing the knife a while ago he has been panicking but, I wonder what’s the matter?

Only one person, Ganglabe, seemed to realise something but, I couldn’t guess what it was.

“This can be done by combining this powder and chocolate. I can give it you”

“Really?!!”

A solid.

Mixing the earlier seasoning and spices making a solid, the soup base.

Is he saying that if you mix it together with the candy, it’s simple to make?

“In exchange though, I want magic crystals”

And then the main thread of the negotiation. Magic crystals.

It is our purpose, and the thing that the Alturia side is determined not to hand over, magic crystals.

That is what Shuri has been dragging out carelessly with his cooking skills in this negotiation spot.

Once again it was a moment where I recognise Shuri’s greatness.

Teg and Cougar are desperately trying to hide it but, given that the tip of their mouths are raising, they’re probably enduring trying to smile.

“Papa!”

Because the prince is an idiot, he looks like he already can’t wait to make the exchange.

Originally, here is where we bring out our compromise with a slight hesitation, and then move on to the negotiations but.

With one phrase from the prince, we can no longer do that.

What he wants is evident, and because he ended up requesting for it,

“S-silence.

…What is your goal”

?

Magic crystals are our goal though….

What is it? Flu’re-dono has been looking strange since a while ago.

Rather than saying he was friendly after seeing the knife, it looks like he wants to end things without the matter getting aggravated.

I don’t know what he’s being scared of.

Only one person, it seems only Ganglabe understood.

“I already said it, the magic crystals.

Please sell them at the market price”

“…I understand.

In exchange, ignore the invitation that my son just gave to you”

Is it ….this?

He wants to erase fact that he invited. So basically, it means he wants the fact that he had anything to do with Shuri to be clouded.

It seems he wants to see that the things said today at this place to be gone.

However, he only wants the fact about the invitation to be gone.

It gave me impression that he was somehow just able to barely withdraw a compromise.

What does this have to do with Shuri's invitation? Is there some kind of inconvenience to this land to be involved with Shuri?

Not having enough information, I couldn't even anticipate it.

"Alright, I won't mind"

In any case, we were able to get our hands on magic crystals at the estimated price.

Exiting the territory and returning to our base.

We were finally able to take a breather.

Anyhow, I had thought that Shuri's sudden action might have had his head decapitated but, contrary we were able to get the magic crystals.

We can probably say that it was a success as a negotiation.

Precisely because the other side indicated that they had no intention to sell from the beginning, we can say this negotiation was difficult.

"But seriously~, why did that fat king seem to be afraid of Shuri"

Cougar voiced out his suspicions.

Indeed, in the end I didn't understand that.

Ganglabe, who I had asked, was suppressing his laughs, kukuku.

"That's because the prince brought it to himself"

"Brought?"

"Ah. Do you remember the troubling matter concerning the additional rewards at Newbyst previously?"

Of course I remember.

It was a strange incident. Saying something like if we want our additional rewards then make something delicious, normally that would be impossible.

"That time, it was the time when Shuri's smart thinking somehow managed something. After that he got a thank you letter and knife from Newbyst"

"Knife and letter? What about that, su?"

“Ah, with just that it’s not unreasonable that Teg doesn’t get it. This along with the fact that the princess had invited Shuri and he refused.

And then, that knife is a sharp sword with the emblem of the Newbyst royal family, and the letter has the stamp of the royal family.”

Ah, I see. I finally understood.

Basically, it’s because right now Shuri’s current status is like a servant of Newbyst.

If he quits out mercenary corp and such, it’s a sign that they are always ready to hire him.

Basically, a chain or armour preventing others from interrupting or snatching him away as he is a person previously wanted for hire in Newbyst. That knife.

Most likely Shuri doesn’t understand. However, showing the knife, making the other tremble, and pulling out some improper words.

That is why the negotiation this time was successful.

However, I didn’t know that knife had such an origin.

Shuri as well said no more than “This emblem looks cool so I use it”.

“But, with this that shitty negotiation is over! Let’s eat once we go back!”

Ganglabe says cheerfully.

To such a Ganglabe, Shuri closed in.

What is it, is it for gratitude.

“Ganglabe-san”

“Ah, Shuri. You saved us-!?”

Splat.

Without saying anything, Shuri threw a punch at Ganglabe’s face.

It was sudden. No one could even respond.

Teg, Cougar or Riru.

They, experienced soldiers who have had been over hundred of battle zones.

Naturally neither could I.

Shuri's sudden violence.

It was something we could have never expected.

Even Ganglabe who was hit, looked as if asking what had happened.

Holding the cheek that was hit, as if he had finally realised he was punched.

"Why didn't you refuse immediately?

Between the person you love and some rocks, which is more important?!

It shouldn't be something you think about until you make her cry!!"

None of us could even object to Shuri's angry roar.

Not even Ganglabe, who excelled at thinking and trickery.

He couldn't refute a single word.

Just like that Shuri returned back to camp angrily by himself.

While we who were left behind just stood there.

Even though we could feel the coldness of the snow under our feet.

"…Ain't that true"

Suddenly Cougar opened his mouth.

"When it's said like that, it's true. We really are garbage for just shutting up and listening to them snatch Ahrius from Ganglabe.

And we were even happy that the negotiations went well."

"Yea. We did absolutely nothing, su.

Because it was like the negotiations went well with just Shuri himself."

"Not 'was like', it was.

Riru didn't even say a single word. Ganglabe's words were also meaningless.

It was only Shuri who made it succeed"

From their mouths, everyone exposed their own shame.

"….It's not your fault"

Ganglabe says with a voice as if vanishing.

There was no sign of the previously elated expression.

Like he was ashamed, like he wanted to cry.

It was that sort of agonizing look.

“I had no need to be so obsessed over these magic crystals. It would’ve been fine to get small amounts at the territories we’re friendly with, even sharing it would’ve been fine.

Despite that I….!”

“Ganglabe…”

“I was stupid….! Even though I said I would liberate the masses from fuckers like that, and want to create a peaceful country, can I do it without protecting the things important to me…!

I can’t complain even if Shuri is disgusted with me…!”

Ganglabe headed towards the campsite.

“So stupid… I am….!”

His back looked as if there was no greater grief.

His usual great big back has become small.

Knowing how many foolish things he has done, or how many idiotic things.

Ganglabe was depressed to the point of being crushed.

I had also forgotten.

Even though it was so dangerous I almost got separated from Ganglabe.

Around the time the negotiations succeeded I forgot and end up smiling.

Originally, it should me who should be the angriest.

But instead of me, Shuri was angered.

At Ganglabe, at Teg, at Cougar, at Riru.

And at me, <Ahrius>.

In the end, Shuri didn’t come out for dinner.

We ate what Shuri's subordinates cooked instead but, somehow there wasn't any taste.

That was even passed to everyone else.

Given that we didn't tell the circumstances to the subordinates, there shouldn't be anything detailed being passed around.

But still, since all the commanders were looking sad.

They worry, 'I wonder what happened'.

After I ate dinner, I was hanging out at the campsite alone.

I was thinking about Ganglabe.

It's possible that this time's failure has left a large wound for Ganglabe.

Facing the serious anger of a trusted subordinate. The meaning of that and his own errors.

I understand that so, there's no mistaking that Ganglabe is worrying.

Originally I wanted to console him.

But, how should I do it.

"Ahrius"

As I was thinking that, suddenly a voice called out to me.

"…Ganglabe?"

For some reason a worried looking Ganglabe was standing there.

"I was looking for you. Because you weren't there even when I went to your tent"

Ganglabe was looking for me?

Looking at his pants, they were dripping wet.

I wonder how far in this snow he went to come look for me?

"Come. I have something to say"

"Yes"

I don't really know what but, if it's to talk I'll accompany him.

Leaving the campsite, coming close to a forest, suddenly Ganglabe stopped.

“I, up till now have never been seriously angered at like that.”

Suddenly, I don’t know what he’s talking about.

However I suddenly recall the incident at noon.

“Cause I’ve survived with my mouth, thinking and physical strength.

I have no parents.

That’s why, I’m honestly at a loss”

“….Yes”

“However, I think that being seriously worried or angered at, might be this painful.

My patheticness is too but, being told that by someone important or by that guy who can say no evil, is what I’m thinking about.

Really, so stupid. I am.”

“…Isn’t that true”

I was stupid.

That’s right. I was an idiot.

“I, as well as you, we were both stupid”

I was also an idiot letting the person I love have these painful thoughts.

“Hey Ahrius. Is it fine, for me to still be your fiancee?”

“I can’t think of anyone other than you”

An immediate response.

Isn’t it obvious. Because the only one I love is Ganglabe.

“Am I good enough?”

“It’s because it’s you that’s it’s good”

Regretting and mourning.

Despite that you somehow get back on your feet and continue walking, it’s

because it’s you.

“That’s right. Except, it won’t do if you don’t say it to me”

I grab onto both of Ganglabe’s shoulders and face him from the front.

The teary Ganglabe. Despite that, you somehow manage to hold on.

I, against Ganglabe’s cheek.

Lightly made a palm.

Slap, that sort of palm.

“Ganglabe! To you which is more important, me or rocks! You idiot!”

Ganglabe was staring at me slightly puzzled but, immediately realised my intention.

“…Haha, of course”

Grabbing my palm, suddenly I was pulled towards him.

Just like that I was exchanging a kiss with Ganglabe.

Is this not a little forced.

“It’s obviously you”

But, that slight forcefulness.

It’s manly and I like it.

“Haha, this is the end for these fuzzy thoughts.

Ahrius. Let’s get married right now”

Eh? Forceful to that extent!?

“Thinking too much about death and the future is annoying.

I want to become a married couple right now, with the you I fell for.”

…Good grief.

“No children till further on though?”

“In that case, until then, I will survive to protect you”

You’re just so forceful.

The next day.

Shuri nervously came in front of us.

I had worried that he was certainly going to completely pack up his luggage in disgust and leave for somewhere else.

“Umm, am I fired?”

Somehow it seems like Shuri was scared that he might be fired for punching Ganglabe.

“Obviously not. Despite me and Ahrius have become a happy couple, aren’t you going to make us a celebratory meal?”

“Eh?! Couple?! …. Ahh, if it’s like that then.

I have no choice but to make it”

Shuri started the preparations for breakfast looking relieved.

It’s good that everything returned back to normal.

“Because of you I realised what is truly important. Thank you”

Shuri smiled shyly.

Really, it’s good to realise what is truly important.

Chapter 21 - Curry Rice of Anger (Part 3)

The Alturia that I govern, was originally an area of snowy fields which was hard to live in.

My great founder forged a path, somehow gaining the rights and excavation for magic crystals and mineral resources, and made it possible for people to live here. Because as long as there are magic crystals, making some home heaters and mining tools with magic engineering, you can build houses and families.

Like that, so that people can simply survive, when people were able to avoid the worst scenario of being frozen to death, the next problem was the supply of food.

This land is an area which is buried in snow all year round. Cultivating with literature is of greatest difficulty. Even hunting animals, the beasts are few and violent, in any case, guaranteeing food was a problem.

What he focused on was, a magic engineering technique which his ancestor had come to accumulate his entire life's research on.

With the nurturing of magic engineers and the power of selling magic crystals, and becoming on equal footing in negotiations with the other countries, it became possible to import food.

It finally came, the days of no starvation and cold.

At that time, what had threatened me was just one knife.

That day, I prepared for an audience with Ganglabe's Mercenary Corps.

Ganglabe Mercenary Corps. An annoying gang who is as known as much as they are asked about.

The war last year. They joined the battle as enemies.

At that time, in the battle where we were in the superior war situation, it was overturned by just one girl.

Ahrius. She's a magician publicly called the "Witch of Overheat".

They, by using just one person's magic, melted the entire snow mountain as if

it was an act of god.

With overwhelming magic firepower, it was a strategy where we who were familiar with the snow fields were forced to fight on the plains.

And then, they who were not used to the snow fields but good with plains, livened up as soon as that happened.

We could only retreat.

It was painful, although they had not demanded for reparations, it's the truth that rather than injuries our treasury received a hit.

This time, they are probably coming here wanting to buy magic crystals.

I'm going to show them what I can do.

"There are no magic crystals to be sold to savages like you. Leave"

The very first thing I say, I declared to Ganglabe.

To those fellows who were respectfully lowering their heads during the audience.

"Please do something about that. It's necessary for our work. As for compensation"

"Right. I'll sell it if those two girls there are given as my son's slave bitches."

Naturally, that's not my intention in the least.

I don't plan on selling, nor do I feel like hiring anyone.

I only want to play with them to my desire and make them leave.

"Papa, I don't want to embrace those country bimbos"

"It's alright son. They'll be properly sterilized with medicine, ok"

My son with a plump figure, Freud.

My cute son which was born after I grew old, who I gave all my knowledge to.

Except, he has a problem which is that he loves to eat sweets.

To me he is a dear child.

"King, Flu're-sama. What you said is a little damaging to your good image. If

the surrounding royalty or feudal lords were to know, how would they look at you”

Ganglabe is criticising me but, that is obvious.

Even I might find fault at my words just then.

But still. I have a confidence which cannot be taken.

“If it’s like that, it’s fine to just stop the sale of magic crystals to that territory.

In this territory, there are just that many resources after all”

Magic crystals appearing endlessly.

This territory’s value because of just that one point is unsurpassable.

The amount we mine and the quality, this territory the lead among others.

Therefore, the territories which wish to buy magic crystals cannot ignore my words.

They can’t even offend me.

“Papa. The one next to the little girl with the thin figure is good.”

“Hm, then you don’t care about that girl there?”

I reply in agreement to my son.

Indeed, that thin girl over there isn’t my goal.

It’s the other girl.

If I can take away Ahrius, it can be a small revenge.

“It’s decided. If you send that girl over there here then for ten times the market price, I’ll sell you half the amount, it’s not bad right?”

I couldn’t hold back my smile from appearing.

Money, women, even praise.

Stealing her away from this hateful man.

I can only describe it as exhilarating.

“Well that’s that. I’ll give those girls to my son, even though they stink of the countryside they’ll do”

“… That’s”

“Ganglabe…”

Looking at Ganglabe’s frustrating expression, it was slightly refreshing for my pride.

I couldn’t keep myself from smiling.

Now, how should I tease them from here on.

When I was thinking that, that guy came out.

“Well well, excuse me for a sec”

Acting like a clown, one man stood up.

He didn’t have the figure of a soldier, a fragile man. With his rare black hair and eyes, he gave the impression of delicateness.

I don’t know who this person is but, there is a limit to rudeness!

“What is it you”

Nonetheless, if this place is disturbed any further it will affect the dignity of the king.

I try my best to stay quiet, however I question with a tone full of anger.

“I am the cook of Ganglabe’s Mercenary Corp, my name is Shuri.

Excuse me but one thing.

The fascinating candy that the prince is eating, where exactly did you get it”

What is he talking about all of a sudden.

It doesn’t make sense to me. There’s something to be offended about but, I still calmly reply.

“…At Newbyst. What about it”

“No no, just making sure”

Just making sure, he says?

What did he want to confirm. Did he want to do something hearing Newbyst?

What this man named Shuri continued to say, I could not believe my ears.

“For one thing, won’t you let me cook you something to eat”

Cooking.

He’s saying he wants to cook here.

This man, had indeed said he was a cook.

However, I wonder what he is thinking saying he wants to cook here.

Besides, rather than saying that Alturia has a low food supply, this is the royal castle.

It’s obvious there are imperial chefs.

“Why must I let a bumpkin cook like you to make something for us to eat.”

Is he saying that he can make something tastier than those imperial chefs?

Impossible. In addition poisoning the food is out of the question.

Or is he simply trying to stall for time?

Maybe during the time he is talking with me, Ganglabe can forge a strategy for the sake of breaking down this situation?

However, even Ganglabe seems to be surprised and hasn’t moved.

So by that logic, he moved by his own judgement?

I don’t understand. I can’t read this man’s thoughts.

I can’t perceive the true thoughts of this man who was acting aloof.

“No no, it’s the prince’s candy.

Let me change that into a captivating dish which surpasses that.”

A captivating dish.

A word which kept coming into my head.

In this land, there is meaning in that it is difficult to change anything from first rate cooking.

In this land which is restricted by food, ways of cooking in ingenious ways is probably inferior to other country’s cooking.

That is what this man said, yo use my son’s candy to make a dish.

“A captivating dish, you say”

Using the so called cooking diplomacy hand huh.

As well as attaching the wording, captivating dish.

I don’t understand the man’s mentality.

However I am interested in that so called dish.

“Yes, potato, carrots, spring onions and meat. That’s all I need.

Let me show you a dish which taste so much better than the candy with just that”

Those ingredients are our territories ingredients which we only have through importing.

They are all popular and the masses are able to buy them as well.

Using such plebeian food, a dish which is combined with candy?

….Let me taste it.

Like the scorn with the monkeys of the snow country, my attention slightly ensnared by cooking.

Alright then. I’ll take you away from Ganglabe as well.

“…Interesting. Having a meal with chocolate and that? Fine show me.

If it tastes bad, I’ll cut off both those arms”

“As you wish. In that case I’ll start preparing”

However, this man who just bet his arms didn’t even show the slightest fear.

What does this mean. Did he just have that much self confidence.

Seeing that, I see him take out a strange paper and started cooking.

Cutting up the ingredients into reasonable and the same sizes, he starts frying a strange powder which he takes out from his breast pocket.

Is it poison? Was what I thought but I was wrong. The smell is different.

In the first place poisons lose their effect once they are heated. And even say, the potency of the poison is still there after heating it then, that poison at best

can only make you dizzy. Basically, meaningless.

And that fragrance. What a good fragrance. Without thinking I began to salivate.

To that powder, did he carry it? he added some butter and some flour, adding thickness to it.

After that he fries the ingredients in a different pot, then adding it to the previous pot.

That's when he throws in the chocolate, stirs it around with a ladle, then closed the lid.

….I took a glimpse at it but, the colour….

"…What is that disgusting looking dish."

How brown.

Just adding that amount of powder made it this brown.

It makes me uneasy.

However, the man called Shuri, looked calm without being timid at all.

"Now now, just try one"

"…Well, alright I guess"

It seems his arms are going to fall regardless if I eat this or not.

Oh Ganglabe. You calling this man to this place probably means that he is quite an important figure.

That man's arms, I'm going to take them right here.

However, the moment Shuri took off the lid, that thought was blown away somewhere.

"This is…"

Me and my son, and on the contrary even Ganglabe and others didn't move.

Wonderful. The fragrance is wonderful.

Combining how many types of seasonings, the captivating fragrance wrapped

around the space of the audience.

Soon even the gaps in the room will have the smell spread to them. The fragrance attacked with such intensity.

However it wasn't unpleasant at all.

Even though I haven't eaten it, my senses of taste is kicking up a fuss.

Even though I had only smelled it, it was so intense my saliva was overflowing.

"Please"

"Al-alright"

I want to eat it. That captivating dish.

Transferring it to the plate, it was brown but also painted with the red of carrots and the yellow of potatoes.

Looking carefully, it's not just brown.

It was a form due to various seasonings combined perfectly and mixed together, controlled at the appropriate temperature.

Forgetting to even poison test, I took a bite of that soup.

"This is!!!?"

What a flavor.

Sweet. It's sweet.

However it wasn't an ordinary sweetness. It was sweet and spicy.

These two senses are seemingly contradictory. This sweetness is like the sweetness of honey with the spiciness of spice harmonizing marvelously.

Savouring it well, it was mainly spicy.

However it's not an unpleasant, tongue burning spiciness.

Just enough excitement. And a particular texture that mildly wraps around your entire mouth.

Eating it together with the ingredients, it changes into a top quality dish because of the soup that accompanies the ingredients.

The meat as well as the carrots and the potatoes.

All of them have changed into wonderful foods of which I've never eaten before.

I can't stop my spoon.

Something so delicious. I have never tasted it before!

"That right. The hand I use my knife with isn't something to be thrown away right"

Saying that Shuri displays the knife he talked of, and I turned pale.

That is the crest of the Newbyst Royal Family.

The person who holds an item with this crest can only be someone of ambassador level or those who are friendly with royalty.

Basically, this shows that Shuri has been recognised by the Newbyst royal family for his skill, or that he is intimate with royalty.

Which made a certain reality clear to us, regarding our Alturia territory.

It means that we have insulted a mercenary corp who is on friendly terms with the Newbyst royal family.

About our Alturia territory, there are many countries that we can look down on due to the relationship with the magic crystals. In this day and age, it can also mean that without a large supply of magic crystals you cannot win a war.

It's a necessity for magic engineering and even magic. And because there are even territories which have a practical use for them in the production of weapons and armours, it's not possible to terminate its demand. So there are more than enough business partners.

However Newbyst is different.

That country, is in possession of the holy forest.

Sleeping in that forest is a large amount of resources, and even magic crystals have been discovered.

It's a unique land where mana can gather easily. And same as our territory, can mine them without limit.

And regarding food production, even comparing other territories they are abundant.

Additionally, they are the main source of food imports for our country.

Having no advantage over magic crystals, we somehow established a quality trade partner.

Speaking of the power position, we are on the lower side.

Newbyst is the only country we can not pick a fight with.

“U, uguu…!!”

No way, was the confirming the chocolate at that time, for the sake of confirming that once again?

Our relationship with Newbyst, do they also know that we’re in the weaker position?

This dish, perhaps does it have some sort of relationship with the royal family of Newbyst?

I can’t stop my spoon. It’s too delicious to stop.

However, if I don’t stop, it’ll probably look like we’re weak to Newbyst.

If it comes to that, the worst case is that Newbyst might bring about some sort of action.

“Please, the prince as well”

“Alright!”

However, my son, as if he didn’t hold such thoughts, happily received the given plate.

Even though right now you should be stubbornly refusing!

“Delicious! Chocolates can become this delicious!”

“Well, thank you for that”

“Papa. Rather than those girls I want this cook!”

“T-that’s…”

This idiot son! He took the worst possible action!

Our country is dependent on the trade of food supply from Newbyst, if we actually try to touch a man who has been invited by Newbyst, I don't know what might happen!

Before the other side can do something, I must strike first.

"This can be done by combining this powder and chocolate. I can give it you"

"Really?!!"

"In exchange though, I want magic crystals"

"Papa!"

"S-silence.

…What is your goal"

In the end, I don't know his goal.

Taking advantage of the relationship between Alturia and Newbyst, I need to know what this man is doing.

I don't think he is simply aiming for magic crystals.

It's no good, this soup is so good I can't think properly.

What a devilish soup.

Making me gutless to this extent…!

"I already said it, the magic crystals.

Please sell them at the market price"

Magic crystals at the market price.

This man. Saying such words like 『Getting magic crystals at the market at a fair price』

Which is just hiding the words 『I'll be quiet about this disgrace so, you'll lend it to us right』

Shit. It's no good.

At the very least, I have to make a last effort resistance,

“…I understand.

In exchange, ignore the invitation that my son just gave to you”

Even if it’s only the matter about the invitation I have to erase it.

If that doesn’t exist, I can make an excuse that we only have a disagreement with the magic crystal negotiations here.

I can probably work something out if I work on an apology to an authority of Newbyst.

Which is why, even if it’s just this fact which is erased I must focus on it.

If not, destruction awaits.

“Alright, I won’t mind”

However unexpectedly, Shuri easily complied.

Almost as if he didn’t understand the meaning of this request.

Here, I realised that I was the one who didn’t understand.

This person, to the end is someone who belongs to Ganglabe’s Mercenary Corp.

His goals and such, isn’t to cause damage to our country or anything.

Because all he wants is simply magic crystals.

Showing off his knife, as well as speaking rudely.

It was all just an act to dominate the negotiation to this point.

My position, and the country’s position, and then Shuri’s position.

Leading our three different relationships by the nose, maybe hiding, maybe lying.

Putting up measures for the sake of deceiving me!

After Ganglabe and the others left, I was frustrated to the point of wanting to hold my head.

Once it had ended it was like I said, only I ended up being tricked to sell the magic crystals.

Even though we were on the offensive.

When did it get reversed?

It’s obvious. That clown-like man.

The existence called Shuri.

Mostly likely, Ganglabe’s Mercenary Corp growing this big was not simply due to the commanders being strong.

It’s probably because a strategist, and cook named Shuri was there.

Having such negotiation power and wit, knowledge and technique in cooking.

Breaking apart such a difficult situation is probably easily within his predictions.

Indeed, if it’s a cook like that then even Newbyst would want to keep him.

Maybe it’s because Newbyst is abundant in food, even their cooking techniques are good.

The Newbyst royal family having consumed such delicious delicacies, purposely handed to him a knife with an engraved crest, making him into one of them.

I see, he’s a man worthy of that appreciation.

However, what baffles me is that man named Shuri who refused their invitation despite having received such a warm welcome.

What exactly is he thinking, hiding himself within such a mercenary corp.

“…There’s might be a need for an investigation”

I don’t know when he might come and bare his fangs at Alturia again.

There needs to be an investigation regarding that man.

“Flu’re-sama! It’s terrible!”

“Why are you so noisy. I’m thinking right now.”

“Well that’s! A pigeon has come regarding the trade reconsiderations from Newbyst’s side!”

“!? What do you mean!”

“I hear it’s only says 『Regarding the unreasonable contact and invitation towards Shuri Azuma, who is friendly with our country. We will take this to sanction trade』!”

The information is too early!

Why? How did they find out!?

“Unless, there’s a spy!”

“Y-yes. It seems that one of the guards has suddenly disappeared!”

We’re fucked!

In addition to our mistake, we’ll have to explain.

And the explanation will probably require a large amount of magic crystals.

And additionally, it becomes set in stone that our fate from now on is in their hands.

After that, at this negotiation place the famous 『Gourmet Princess』 Tebis-dono directly came to us.

At that negotiation, that princess came and withdrew the 『Sanction for Unreasonable Invitation』 and 『Insult towards a person friendly with Royalty』.

If we refuse here, the food trade will be no more.

In the end, there was no way for us not to pay a large amount of magic crystals as compensation.

This one act, in the future is described in many literatures and plays.

The play full of up and downs of Emperor Ganglabe and Empress Ahrius is their younger days.

Becoming an act of how Empress Ahrius was snatched away, receiving injustice and how he courageously took back the woman he loves with intelligence and wisdom.

The story told has many forms and interpretations, and later on becomes popular with women.

However, in this story, the correct historical awareness regarding the intelligence of the “King of Meals” Shuri Azuma is not told at all.

That is because, Shuri Azuma enters on stage with a different viewpoint.

Emperor Ganglabe in heartache having Empress Ahrius snatched away.

While Emperor Ganglabe is depressed, Shuri Azuma enters and punches him once in the face.

The scene changed to him scolding “Aren’t you going to risk your life for the woman you love”

By the way, where Emperor Ganglabe and Shuri Azuma watched this play was at a drinking party.

It is said that he agonizingly fainted from embarrassment.

(Author’s note: Somehow I updated it.

Given that I’ll reflect on this and try harder, from here on thank you for the encouragements.)

Chapter 22 - Curry Rice of Anger (Epilogue and Inside Story)

(Author's note: I made a small mistake and posted it incomplete. Sorry)

I, Tebis Newbyst was seething. Completely seething with anger, ja.

Going back to a few days ago. I was in my evening bedroom sampling a new Mapo Tofu, eating Sichuan Mapo Tofu.

Even though I wasn't exactly fainting from the deliciousness or spiciness, the imperial cooks were cooking with trial and error day and night for the sake of completely reproducing the recipe, .

The imperial cooks were troubled at the recipe's difficulty to the point of complaining "Please call the person himself and instruct us". Even though the recipe was easy to read and understand, they were having trouble analysing a specific area. Everyday they were sending their discussions and research like, 'What is different'.

As expected, I have no choice to but call for Shuri somewhere, nou.

It was at that time when I was carelessly thinking about that, ja.

"Princess, a message from our spy has arrived. It's about Shuri"

"Mu? Did he finally get fired from Ganglabe's Mercenary Corp and felt like serving Newbyst?"

Obviously it's a joke.

Except, it would be nice if that was true.

"Well, it's that Shuri has been invited by another country"

"…. Come again?"

Seeing that knife, and still wanting to invite Shuri?

Well, it can't be helped. With such skill, there isn't anyone who wouldn't be charmed.

However it is truly a diplomatic situation.

“Which country is it, ja?”

“Alturia. It seems that while Ganglabe’s Mercenary Corp were in the middle of a negotiation for magic crystals, the prince had directly wanted him”

Alturia?

Ah, isn’t that the countryside snow country with average magic engineering techniques with no ability other than selling magic crystals.

It’s true that they can get magic crystals over there. The quality isn’t bad either.

But, here we have the holy forest.

Magic crystals originate from places thick with nature and there are even magic crystals in the holy forest. The quality is good as well.

If I remember correctly, we should have a trade with them between magic crystals and food.

To be honest it’s a trade without any profits and I’ve even thought that it might be better to end the trade.

“Well alright. It’ll be fine to send them a stern warning with a letter”

“Understood. I shall deliver it using a pigeon.”

Being invited by such bumpkins, I also feel pity for Shuri.

Even if he serves a country like Alturia, he wouldn’t be able to freely use his skills.

As expected, only here, a territory like Newbyst where fresh foodstuffs can be taken is suitable for Shuri.

And while I was thinking of that, I heard something that I couldn’t ignore.

“According to the spy, among other things, when eating Shuri’s cooking the king and prince didn’t even take their hands off their spoon in the middle of negotiations. I wonder what kind of dish it was”

“Wait”

I called to stop the maid who was leaving the room.

Come again? They ate Shuri’s cooking?

And it was a delicious delicacy such that they couldn’t even take their hands off it?

Unforgivable. Eating such a delicacy before me, and to top it off they even wanted to invite Shuri.

Such unforgivable barbarism. I’ll make you regret it.

“Change the contents of the letter.

Regarding the 『Unreasonable invitation against a person from our country』 and 『Insults』 demand a 『Reconsideration of the Trading Terms』.

I shall fly there personally. Prepare this”

“C-certainly!”

After the maid rushed out in panic, I was thinking carefully about how to drive Alturia into a corner.

“This, so this is the dish that Shuri had been trying to make night after night”

The curry that I had finally finished, I decided to give it to Ganglabe-san.

He~llo it’s Shuri. It’s already a few days since the uproar at Alturia. Finally we have been sent days of peace.

“This is delicious”

“That’s good. But, this is still incomplete”

“Incomplete?”

“Yes”

Because at any rate there isn’t any rice.

What should I do. There isn’t any even in my inventory so it became something like Curry Soup. But, after all rice goes best with curry, right.

While I was worrying like that, someone approached us.

“Leader. A messenger has come from Newbyst, they left behind a letter and foodstuffs”

“Ha? From Newbyst?”

“Yes. And they also say they want to meet with Shuri-san”

What’s this about?

Going down to the messenger, there was a large amount of food supplies.

Oh? Isn’t that rice?

“It’s been a while Shuri-sama”

“Eh? Adding sama?”

“Yes. Shuri-sama is a favourite of the Princess. I’ve been instructed to be courteous”

Ah, that little princess-san.

“And, what is this?”

“Yes. Our country went to reconsider our trade with Alturia, and succeeded in getting benefits. From the Princess there is a letter for Leader Ganglabe. The rice is for Shuri-sama. I have been instructed to deliver our gratitude.”

“I see”

It wasn’t exactly for the sake of that little princess-san though….

“So that’s the case. By the way this rice, is being grown in Newbyst right?”

“Yes. As it is an indispensable ingredient for the legendary Mapo Tofu of Shuri-sama.”

“I see, then please deliver this to the little princess-san”

I gave him the curry roux and the recipe.

When the curry powder is completed, it hardened into a easy to carry, easy to cook roux.

With this, you too are a curry chef!

“This is?”

“The necessary tools and recipe to make Curry Rice. I was able to create a new dish, so as thanks for the rice.”

“I-is that right. The Princess will certainly enjoy it”

It would be good if that was the case.

After the messenger went back, I was told by Ganglabe-san slightly anxiously.

“Is that ok? Giving them the new dish so easily”

“Well… just treat it as thanks for the gift. I can also make curry roux so there’s no problem there.

The problem is….”

The problem is, Riru-san over there, who was greedily eating the Hamburger Steak Curry.

She’s been like that for a long time. It’s almost scary.

“Supreme. No doubt this is supremacy”

She says as she eats.

“It’s about Riru-san”

“….Yup”

In the end, it was hard work just to stop Riru-san.

After that, I cooked the rice and it became Curry Rice. Everyone was eating it happily. As expected of Curry Rice.

Later on, the princess ate curry rice at Newbyst and was astonished by the flavour.

The reproduction of the recipe was even harder than Mapo Tofu, and it made the imperial cooks cry.

However, when they combined Mapo and Curry together and ate Mapo Curry, they say they were extremely pleased.

Later on, Mapo Curry became the secret dish of the royal family but that’s a different story.

Chapter 23 - Crispy Roasted Suckling Pig of Imprisonment

Given that I have rice, the Curry Rice is completed. Oh dear! As a Japanese we can't have no rice. Secretly from everyone, I quietly cook rice to eat.

Somehow it seems that here, rice isn't eaten that much. What a waste. Let's start a rice revolution.

Shuri here. We have rice now so I'm in a good mood.

With the opportunity of the previous magic crystal negotiation, Ganglabe-san and Ahrius-san's wedding had been decided. Good, so good.

Thinking that I want to secretly prepare their wedding and surprise the two, I discussed it with Teg-san and Cougar-san in private.

"Wedding?"

"Yes. Unless this continent doesn't celebrate at times like weddings?"

"I see…. we more or less gather our relatives, and vow in front of the matchmaker who is a representative of the village or town, su"

"When you say vow, something like vowing eternal love?"

"Pretty much. It's that feeling. After that is greeting everyone and then ending"

"Eh? What about the wedding banquet or wedding gifts?"

"We had it a long time ago but… because of the current times, they hurry to give birth then go back to work"

"Yup yup. Because the kid is the successor as well as a helping hand, su. So somehow, there isn't time for celebrating. But a celebratory banquet is something those royalty still do currently"

How dull. That's no good.

"Since it's such an event, why don't we make Ganglabe-san and Ahrius-san's wedding extremely grand?"

“”Extremely grand?””

“Firing up fireworks or like, making them kiss in front of everyone”

“K-kiss?! In front of everyone?!”

“Having the groom appeal to everyone by holding the bride in a princess carry”

“So, so bold, su”

“And then swearing to the gods, 『In times of wealth as well as times of poverty, will support each other’s love』”

“To the gods….huh….”

“Shuri is a surprising romantic, su….”

A-are you two backing away?!

Strange. On Earth this flow should be normal though….

No, rather how about I make a new form of wedding ceremonies in this world?!

It’ll be popular, definitely.

My goal had been renewed.

Now then, speaking of preparing the wedding, what should I make for food?

I tried asking Riru-san.

“An appropriate dish for a wedding?”

“Yes. I was wondering what I should cook in order not to lose face for them”

“Hamburger Steak”

I asked the wrong person.

While I was groaning, un un, it’s already the next battle.

From the results we had won.

It was great that it ended without anyone dying.

And, I hear a large victory party is to be held.

“Shuri, you have to cook for me, please”

That was the night before. Ganglabe-san bowed to me as I was washing dishes.

“I will. So please raise your head.”

“No, this time it might be difficult even for you”

Difficult…you say?

“In fact, at the victory party this time, it’s been decided that the Feudal Lord is planning to give me a piece of land”

Land?!

“So does that mean, you can become a feudal lord?”

“Putting it simply. I can finally become the head of a household”

That’s in need for celebrations.

“But, the feudal lord is quite the gourmet. I want to get on his good side but, I need a dish according to that.”

“Basically, something that even nobles wouldn’t be embarrassed of. Furthermore, something that’s delicious and unusual?”

“Exactly that”

Ganglabe-san was looking embarrassed.

I mean, it’s not like it’s different from any other thing….

“Understood. By the way, did the nobles specify any particular ingredient?”

“It’s been decided to be a piglet”

If it’s a piglet then…. it might be that.

“Ganglabe-san. A whole roast piglet, have you eaten that before?”

“As if I could eat such an expensive thing!”

“What about the method?”

“Hn? Turning it with fire using an exclusive furnace, putting it inside that and carefully roasting it till it’s well-done.

That’s how it’s done normally?”

So it’s something like making a whole roast using an oven….

Good, I can do it.

“I understand. I’ve already decided”

Ganglabe-san was surprised but, making that is troublesome so if I don’t practise….

It’s going to be tough.

The very next day.

In a party where a large amount of nobles, and soldiers gathered, I was made to participate while looking out of place.

Borrowing the castle’s garden to hold it, it was extremely luxurious.

And I was just way too out of place.

“Even though everyone is dressed formally, why am I the only one wearing casual clothes…?”

“Well, when I was thinking if you were going to just retreat back into the kitchen, I suddenly blurted out that you’ll be cooking it front of everyone so, I wasn’t able to prepare in time.”

Ganglabe-san gave me an answer but, I felt like running away.

Damn it, it would’ve been fine for me to just retreat to the kitchen!

Ganglabe-san and Ahrius-san were talking to the nobles next to them. They seem used to it. And the idea that they were to marry was spreading around.

Teg-san while acting slightly awkward was talking to the noble sons and daughters. Even though it would’ve be fine if something like a popular period was gone.

Riru-san kept trying the food without a care. As I was being relieved wondering if she outgrew Hamburger steak, she wholeheartedly looked over here. I won’t make it, not Hamburger steak.

And Cougar-san is together with me. It seems like he is worried about me walking around alone and getting left behind.

“Is this fine with you Cougar-san? If you don’t remember who they are?”

“Ah? The nobles? No matter. At any rate I’m not great at that stuff. Rather than the general’s personnel, I get along better with the lower ranking troops.”

“Is it like that?”

“It’s like that. Hey, Ganglabe’s calling for you. It’s probably around time for you to start cooking?”

Oh, is it almost time?

The ingredients and utensils have already been prepared in the middle of the banquet.

Exchanging a look with Ganglabe-san, I received his permission.

“Now then everybody. This is a special way of making a whole roast piglet, I’ll be making Crispy Roasted Suckling Pig. Given that it’s a lucky dish, it’s just in time”

It might be because no one has heard of it before, they were a little noisy.

Well of course, not even many Japanese people have heard of it.

The pig which had already finished it’s preparing was pierced entirely by a ・・・・, let’s begin.

On top of the charcoal fire, I diligently rotated the piglet. Taking it down I coated it with sugar water(A seasoning which is a mixture of starch syrup and vinegar) and peanut oil then roasting again.

Roast, coat, roast, coat, roast, coat….

When I made this for the first time I had failed but, I practised many times after that. Now I can do it perfectly.

By the way this Roast Suckling Pig. In Chinese cooking this is a celebratory dish of the Guangdong province. It’s a dish where you mainly eat the skin.

Taking down the cooked Roast Suckling Pig, I cut the skin and arrange it on a plate.

It’s finished after handing it over to the nearby servants.

“The meat over there cannot be eaten?”

The Feudal Lord came approached me to receive a dish and said.

Looking like it's such a waste.

"Because this is a dish where the skin is most delicious"

"I see, in that case I shall try this"

The feudal lord ate the the skin which had been served onto his plate.

"This is…! Although it's crunchy it's almost like it melts in your mouth…! Such a strange mouthfeel!"

On the surface was a well roasted brown skin.

And eating it, it melts inside your mouth with a crunch.

Finally it just leaves you with a sense of deliciousness, that is the feature of Roast Suckling Pig.

If you roast it badly, it will almost become like fried squid. Cracking loudly and leaving behind a fatty taste.

It's good that I succeeded….!

"It's an interesting dish. I see, a new dish which pursues the deliciousness of the skin"

"Yes, I'm honoured to receive your praise"

"Hm hm, I'm in a good mood. Bring me the mulled wine"

He seems like a pleasant enough Feudal Lord-san.

Receiving a glass, wine was being poured for me.

….Hn?

"No!"

I immediately strike at the wine glass, and it fell to the ground.

Danger! You can't drink this stuff!

"You! What are you doing to the feudal lord!"

However, it doesn't seem the others thought of it that way.

I was surrounded by soldiers who came running at the orders of the generals.

Oh man, I was arrested.

It was already too late when I thought that.

I had already been pressed against the ground.